When I was a young parent, my Rector invited me to take the position of Director of Christian Education at our church. My husband Glenn and I had three children enrolled in the Sunday School of our home parish of Trinity Church in Collinsville (CT) and I think that the Rector figured that he had a good shot at building a program with our growing family in the middle of it all.

It turned out to be a life changing experience for me, that job. It turned out that my own faith deepened as I took on this new role, and the children were not the only ones learning and being formed in Christ.

I had grown up in the church and had been a student in Sunday School, learning the stories of Creation, Noah’s Ark, David and Goliath—all the usual Old Testament stories that capture children’s imaginations—and the New Testament stories of the Nativity, the Feeding of the Multitudes, the parables, the healing stories and, of course, the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension stories. I wasn’t an expert, but I had a good grounding in the foundations of our Holy Scripture.

What I knew, though, that was even more important, was that I had a place in the community at my church. I belonged. The church was a touchstone for me and my family. Part of our regular rhythm of family life, our lives circled in and around what happened on Sunday mornings, year ‘round. I knew that there was a place for me and that no matter what had happened during the week, that I could slip into the worn, wooden pew on Sunday morning, feel the warmth of the sun coming through the leaded windows, listen to the music and the unison acclaim of the people and feel that all was right.
Years later, after I was ordained, God put a call on my heart to reach out to children and families with special needs. A family in the parish where I was serving had decided to opt out of church because of the behavior of their autistic son who, in their eyes, was too old for the nursery, too disruptive in church, and too much for the Sunday School teachers to manage. I found a way to invite Eli and his family back to church by creating a separate service for children and families who needed a different learning and worship environment than the one we were used to. Eli came to church and “Rhythms of Grace” was born. Eli brought others with him; it turned out that there were others who also appreciated the extra care that we were able to offer in this new service. The service introduced children to the stories of Holy Scripture, allowed for creative exploration of the story themes through music, movement and specially designed arts and crafts, and served up Holy Communion using rice crackers and grape juice. But most of all, Rhythms of Grace created a place where these dear ones of God felt at home, felt safe, and knew that they belonged.

Jesus said to his disciples that he was going ahead of them to “prepare a place for them.” (John 14:2).

How do we prepare our churches for others, especially those who are the least among us, so that they feel at home, safe, and loved? This is one of our most important missions as we seek to extend God’s loving embrace.

Appointment of Priest-in-Charge

We’re delighted to announce that Bishop Audrey Scanlan has appointed Mt. Calvary’s new Priest-in-Charge: the Rev. Dr. Gregory William Welin, who begins his service with us on July 1st! Fr. Welin comes to us from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Woodbury, Connecticut, where he's served since September 2012 as Priest-in-Charge. Before that, he served other Connecticut parishes as Priest-in-Charge, Vicar, Interim, and Rector. His earlier experience includes service as a hospital and food pantry chaplain, and as resident supervisor of an emergency shelter for the homeless in New Haven.

His education includes a Bachelor's degree in Biblical and Theological Studies; a Master of Divinity degree in Parish Ministry; a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hartford Seminary, where his dissertation was entitled "Creating the possibility for healthy change to a community by disturbing the environment: The priest as gardener."

Fr. Welin is a lifelong Episcopalian. His work for the church has included consulting with churches in transition. He reportedly sometimes plays the trumpet. He professes a deep commitment to contemplative prayer. He will be moving to the Harrisburg area with his wife, Amy, whom St. Stephen's Cathedral has chosen to serve as their Acting Dean.
Nurturing of the young is clearly one of the highest priorities for Mount Calvary! As ROME (via Vacation Bible School) is re-created here in Camp Hill, it underlines your commitment to younger members of this parish family.

How we nurture the young is vitally important! We truly shape their lives—I know from three “snapshots” of my own pilgrimage.

The big red-brick building loomed on the corner of the street, just a city block from the park where I loved to feed the squirrels. I was seven years old when we entered that building. Children went off to Sunday school. Adults went somewhere else. I vividly remember the children going into the BIG room where adults usually went, and singing “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight…”

Later that year, newly appendix-free, my Sunday school teacher came to the bedside to give the gift of a fascinating puzzle: you moved numbered tiles around to make various patterns. One was “Impossible”—and it really was!

It’s amazing how early experiences form us by instilling a sense of what is good and important. Singing to the adults was my very first “stage” experience. And the loving concern of my Sunday school teacher was made tangible by a visit and gift of a puzzle.

Nine years later, Bishop Honaman left the pulpit at All Saints’, Hershey… came to the lectern… and looked directly at each teenager seated below him. We were soon to confirm the promises made at Baptism, and he told us—in emphatic terms—about the step we were taking in our lives, and the importance of choosing to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

The communities we choose to be part of shape our souls and lives. Childhood memories form a foundation for the way we see all of life. If we are fortunate, we experience the gift of adults who demonstrate caring, foster growth, nurture maturity, and help us learn to reach out in love to others—and accept the love given by others to us.

The people of Mount Calvary know these things! And seek to help each of us—of any age—see the wonder in the world about us, reach out with love, and approach with awe the One who made all things and creatures that live, and move, and have their being.

What a joy to be a part of this parish and your pilgrimage!
As I thought about writing for this issue, three episodes from my own childhood came to the surface from the deep, dark well of memory.

The first is a painful one. I was on stage in the church’s fellowship hall, part of a drama presented by my Methodist Sunday School class, performing for the adults. At the end of the production, I was at the edge of the stage closest to the applauding audience. When the applause turned to laughter, I turned around to discover that all of my fellow actors had left the stage.

The second episode is happier. As a reward for reciting the books of the Bible in their proper order, my Sunday School teacher offered me a choice of three Native American arrowheads from his collection. I chose the one that looked most like a proper arrowhead to my inexpert eye. That was clearly the one he was most reluctant to part with.

Around the same time in my childhood, I asked my Sunday School teachers if I could speak to the class about one of Jesus’s miracles—the miracle of the loaves and fishes, I think. A shy and quiet child, I remember weighing a strong desire to enlighten my classmates against a strong aversion to speaking to a group. The desire to enlighten won out, and I did my best to explain away the miracle, offering a naturalistic account of what seems to have appeared to Jesus’s audience to be supernatural.

These memories encapsulate a lot about me. Where did the reflex to find being left alone on stage so horrifying come from? Are some traits encoded in our temperaments very early on?

As for reciting the books of the Bible: I was always an academic overachiever. I think I used that to maintain self-esteem in the face of my father’s focus on sports, an interest I didn’t much share.

And my seeking to enlighten my Sunday School class about Jesus’s miracles foreshadowed a later interest in philosophy and religion, in teaching and working with groups, especially around spiritual subjects. Maybe there’s also something prideful and patronizing in it.

Wordsworth says, “the Child is father of the Man.” As he holds up for us so vividly in his poetry, childhood is a deep mystery. Christ lives in each one of our precious children, showing something of who God is as each grows toward the realization of that unique spark of creation God has implanted.

Another poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, says that each child, each person, “Selves—goes itself... / Crying Whát I dó is me: for that I came.” Each child “Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is— / Christ—for Christ plays in ten thousand places.”

Jean Vanier, founder of the L’Arche communities, says, “I believe deeply that in children and young people a light is present. We must listen to children. We must hear what they have to say. They are people in whom the light of God exists.”

Let us see Christ, see that unique and precious incarnation of God-stuff, in all of our teaching, all of our parenting and grandparenting, all of our dealings with children.
Children’s Ministry

Children’s Ministry at Mt. Calvary includes children of all ages. We start with the very youngest in the care of Andrea Chronister, Laurie Malatesta, and Gail Nornhold in the Nursery. We are fortunate to have them. Our babies and toddlers get to see the same person each week and begin to feel a sense of familiarity and family.

We move from the Nursery to the Preschool where Rick Farrell introduces the children to church and the form of the service with Children’s Chapel. Here the children light the candles, hear a message, participate in prayer, collect offering and extinguish the candles—so when they come to the Sanctuary, they are familiar with the order of service.

From Children’s Chapel, they are guided through a lesson and activity, as are the Primary and Intermediate classes. As the children move through the years, they participate in lessons and activities guided by the Lectionary. These lessons follow the same scripture that is used in the main service. The curriculum chosen to guide the teachers is the Sparks program. Sparks Lectionary Program is a three-year curriculum, with fall, winter, and spring quarters. The lessons are broken into four parts: Gather, Open the Bible, Active Faith/Activity, and Send. Each week the children gather to explore the bible, enjoy an activity, pray, and grow in faith. The Bible is the foundation of each lesson as it is in the sanctuary.

As a Church School, we have made Gingerbread Houses, participated in the Christmas Eve service, collected money for the food pantry, sold cookies for the Four Diamonds Fund, and participated in the Palm Sunday service. Some new things this year were the Easter Candles and the participation of the Youth Group in each of the Lenten services. We have an Intergenerational lesson the First Sunday of each month where the children’s understanding of the Church and Christianity is broadened with participation in lessons and activities founded on a current happening.

Without the participation of many of you from the congregation, none of this would be possible. At last count, there are 42 of you who keep us afloat. We regret that we can’t name all of you here, but you know who you are. We would like to thank you, and these teachers who serve each week… Kaylyn Brown, Lisa Golding, Lecia Jordan, Aimee Benevides, Stephanie Johnson, Heather Waldner, Lori Lucius, and Bryan Woodward.

Pizza Club and Youth Group are other ways we serve our children. Two Sunday evenings a month the youth from 6th grade and up gather for lessons, camaraderie, and mission. Oh, and of course, pizza. Not only did the children participate in the Lenten Services, they also help at the Food Bank once a month. Our big projects this year were collecting for the men and women in the armed forces and helping to construct the set for VBS. Last, but not least, is Pizza Club two Tuesday evenings a month the children age 5 and up meet for pizza, lessons, games, an activity, and let’s not forget Lynn Alt and Pizza Club Choir!
Vacation Bible School 2017
Visiting Rome with the Apostle Paul

Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Mt. Calvary has always been a big event. Over the years, we have visited faraway places, such as Athens and Egypt. This year we will visit Rome and hear from the Apostle Paul. Although not one of the original 12 Apostles, Paul was called by God to spread the teachings of Jesus and founded the Christian Church in meetings underground. He is responsible for many of the books of the New Testament. He gave us a guidebook to Christianity in his letters to the churches. The children will experience his love and faithfulness in the following lessons:

- God’s love is a Gift.
- God’s love Changes us.
- God’s love is Always with us.
- God’s love Saves us.
- God’s love is Worth sharing.

Again, the members at Mt. Calvary are stepping up to serve our youth. We have 27 volunteers to-date to fill the positions of Family Leader/Teacher, Assistants, Song Leader, Craft Leader, as well as Game Leader. We need to gather snacks and items to complete the set. A few people are needed to fill positions as well. You will hear more about this exciting journey in the coming weeks as time flies and June 18 will be upon us before you know it.

Thanks to the VBS committee members and all who will make this week a great success!

Registration forms are in the Narthex and in the bulletins. They will also be sent via email.

Mark your calendars for the VBS Experience:
June 18–22, 7:30–9:00 PM
Most of the work I do with our children and youth is through the world-famous “Pizza Club Choir”—which is actually a slight misnomer. Probably the time I spent with the children as part of their activities every other Tuesday night should be called “Music at Pizza Club.” Yes, the children do learn songs that are a special treat when presented as part of a worship service. Everyone loves seeing and hearing them in their white cottas! By the time this goes to press, the children will have presented a musical offering on Mothers’ Day. If we can assemble enough of them, they may also be singing on Fathers’ Day.

I am also using my time with the children to teach musical skills and appreciation that, I hope, will spark an interest in pursuing school music activities and perhaps even private study. Of course, I’m always thinking about and hoping for future church choir members! The children also learn valuable lessons about working as a team—no individual voices sticking out! I teach them basic musical terms and how they are employed to make their songs more appealing to the listener. One particular night, we did a session on how music affects emotional response. I played various things and asked the children to talk about how the music made them feel. They were very eager to share feelings and thoughts, which made for an interesting evening!

Always we are learning songs, but also learning about the value of music, whether you end up a performer, a choir member, a band member, or someone whose life is enriched by appreciative listening.

The children are eager participants, enthusiastic, and respectful. I wish all of you could sit in some time.

As for our teenage members, I am continually looking for instrumental and vocal students to share their talents during a worship service. With the departure of the Matthews’ family, we have a quite a void to fill. Please talk with me, parents and students, about any music, either solo or in a group, that you are interested in sharing during a service. I would be delighted to work with you!

Pizza Club Choir performs “This Little Light of Mine” on Mother’s Day weekend.
Safeguarding Our Children

All adults who have any kind of regular contact with children and youth in our parish are expected to complete a very important program—SAFEGUARDING GOD’S CHILDREN—in order to increase understanding of the ways we can keep our children safe. The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania requires this training for all employees and for all volunteers who work with children and youth in any ministry setting. The Diocese has established clear guidelines and requirements for safeguarding certification and re-certification.

The Safeguarding Training includes an in-person 2-3 hour training, as well as a Criminal Background Check Clearance and a Child Abuse Clearance. All three (training and two clearances) need to be updated every 3 years. After one completes the initial training, subsequent trainings can be completed online (online training requires a password and username provided by the diocese). The most recent Safeguarding God's Children training included 10 members from Mt. Calvary and four joined us from St. Luke's in Mechanicsburg.

A new training program—SAFEGUARDING GOD’S PEOPLE—is offered to those in the ministries which include: ministers, employees, parish treasurer, lay Eucharistic ministers, and music ministers. We recently offered Safeguarding God's People program to five of our parishioners.

Questions or requests for more detailed information re: certification/re-certification—please contact MCP Trainer—Brian Fogarty at bkfpsych@hotmail.com or call 717-580-4369.
We asked our children what they like best about Mt. Calvary and why. Interviews were conducted during Pizza Club and at the Sunday night Youth Group. Here’s what they had to say…

**Live from the Pizza Club!**

“It’s fun at Mt. Calvary. I like the games in Church School. I like singing, playing games, and of course, the pizza at Pizza Club. I also like being an Acolyte.” **Coryn**

“I like being with my friends. Especially tonight I got to bring a friend who I don’t see often. Sometimes I forget to call or when I call he’s not available. It will be fun tonight to share pizza and do all the activities and games.” **Tommy**

“I love Vacation Bible School the best. At Pizza Club, I like the activities we do like make bread with a marshmallow and bake it and it disappears!” (Note: empty tomb activity) **Nathan**

“I like to play at church and learn stuff.” **Clara**

“At church school, we do a paper about God and I learn about God. I like coffee hour afterwards, singing at Pizza Club, and eating pizza of course.” **Hunter**

“I like going to church on Sunday the best and learning about Jesus. I like hanging out with my friends at Pizza Club and doing crafts and stuff.” **Lindsay**

“I like coffee hour because I can spend time with my family and friends and enjoy the food! We also do fun activities in Pizza Club.” **Amber**

**Thoughts from the Youth Group**

“Everyone is so nice and considerate. People take turns for coffee hour, volunteer for events, and help the youth of our church. There are lots of activities to do—the church offers many events for kids and even adults. During the week, the church is used for other groups too. I like how we get to know everyone at our church and get to spend time with our families too. The church often encourages kids to help acolyte and be a Crucifer. They make it easy to understand, and everyone helps each other in this process. The church members try their hardest to teach young children about the church in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, etc. They also hold youth group on Sundays for the older kids.” **Alice**

“I like Church School and things like VBS where I can learn more about God. I like learning about how life was back when Jesus was here. VBS is really fun because we play games, eat snacks, and meet with our group in our own house! Church School is fun because we might not always understand the complex stories in church, but our teachers help us understand them better in class.” **John**

“Church is an important part of my life because I actually get to help with services and things around the church. I love volunteering at church and going to groups like my youth group and the food bank. Acting as an Acolyte and Crucifer are also things that I do frequently that make me feel even more part of the church. It feels good to help out with something that I really love to be a part of.” **Luke**
Sunday School over the Years

Sunday School, or as some called it Church School, always had a large presence at Mount Calvary. In a December 1942 service bulletin, it was reported that the average church attendance for the week (total of all services) was 68 and the Sunday School attendance was 29. The first baby boomers were born in 1946, and by the 1950s, 60s and into the early 70s, the number of youth attending Sunday School and other youth programs, grew by leaps and bounds. By the late 1960s, Sunday School attendance had reached over 100 on any given Sunday.

By the 1950s, there were so many children receiving Christian Education at Mount Calvary that there was a class for each grade through 8th and then a class for Senior High. This huge increase in attendance necessitated the building of the education wing in 1966.

Parishioner Melissa Gurley Hoy and her brother Steve Gurley attended Sunday School in the 50s and 60s at Mount Calvary. Melissa graciously shared some of her memories: “Classes were held in the undercroft (prior to the addition of the education wing). Dividers were on tracks attached to the ceiling. The challenge was to get to your seat before classes started.” “Like today, Sunday School was held during church. However, we were dismissed for class prior to the sermon.” “In fourth grade, we had to memorize the books of the bible. I never got past Joshua.” “You attended Sunday School through 12th grade.”

Parishioner Robert Knawby began attending Sunday School at Mount Calvary in 1945. During those years, Sunday School was taught through the 7th grade. Bob still has all seven perfect attendance pins that he received for religiously attending class.

Many of you may remember Harold Jones. Harold and his wife Jean were long time parishioners and were very active in the church. In a service bulletin in 1943, Harold was listed as Superintendent of the Church School. Mr. Jones noted that they added seven new members to their roles in just two weeks. He was proud of the increase in Lenten offerings (totaling $38) by Church School attendees, which were then used to support an outreach program in “Foreign Missions.”

The two photos show Sunday School classes in 1964. Attending the senior high class is Melissa Gurley Hoy, seated on the far left. Third from the right is Steve Gurley. In the photos, you can see how the undercroft was divided into classrooms and understand the obvious need to physically expand the church. The other photo is long time parishioner Carol Longshaw teaching second grade.
Calendar

June 2017

3  Men’s Breakfast Group (7:45 AM at the Cornerstone Coffee House)
11 Church Picnic (12:00 Noon at Adams-Ricci Park, 100 E. Penn Dr. Enola)
14 Women’s Study Group (7:00 PM in the Church Parlor)
18 Vestry (11:45 AM in the Church Parlor)
18 Outreach Coordinating Committee (after coffee hour, in the Youth Room)
18-22 Vacation Bible School- Paul & the Underground Church (6–8 PM, undercroft and grounds)
28 Women’s Study Group (7:00 PM in the Church Parlor)

July

1 Father Welin arrives!
9 Vestry (11:45 AM in the Church Parlor)
12 Women’s Study Group (7:00 PM in the Church Parlor)
16 Outreach Coordinating Committee (after coffee hour, in the Youth Room)
26 Women’s Study Group (7:00 PM in the Church Parlor)

August

9 Women’s Study Group (7:00 PM in the Church Parlor)
13 Vestry (11:45 AM in the Church Parlor)
20 Outreach Coordinating Committee (after coffee hour, in the Youth Room)
23 Women’s Study Group (7:00 PM in the Church Parlor)

Special Calendar Notes:

- The Choir will not rehearse during the summer months and will resume again in September.
- The Men’s Breakfast Group will not meet during July and August and will resume again in September.
- Coffee Hour will not be held during the summer months and will resume again in September. (Please consider volunteering to host a coffee hour; sign up for the Sunday of your choice on the bulletin board in the Narthex.)
Save the Date…
Parish Picnic on June 11!

Adams-Ricci Park
100 East Penn Drive, Enola
The Northeast Pavilion (facing Center St)
Hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks will be provided.
Please sign up to bring a side-dish or dessert.
Organized by Parish Life Committee.

Worship Schedule:
Saturday at 5 pm
Sunday at 8 am & 10 am
Thursday Healing at 10 am

The Rev. Canon Fred Miller, Associate Priest
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Emergency Pastoral Care: 717-265-3961
Lynn Alt, Music Director
Cindy Spigelmyer, Acting Parish Administrator
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