



the CALVARY NOTE

DECEMBER
2017

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BURNT HILLS ♦ NEW YORK

*Leading people to God through faith in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit
By worship, witness, stewardship, fellowship, study, and service.*

O ♦ COME

You might be surprised at how many hymns in our hymnal begin with the word “come” or something similar. (Just take a look at the index of first lines in the back of the hymnal some time.) It is one of the great themes of the Church to pray for Jesus to come. And what better time to talk about Jesus coming than the season of Advent, right? We’re waiting for Jesus to come at Christmas, right?

Well . . . kind of.

In one sense Advent is a time of waiting for Jesus’ arrival at Christmas, but if you think about it we aren’t really waiting for Jesus to come at Christmas . . . because he already *came*. Jesus isn’t born over and over again each year on December 25. He was born once a long time ago (and it probably wasn’t on December 25).

In Latin *advenire* means “to come”; which then connects to the Latin word *adventus*, which means “arrival”; which subsequently gives us our English word, advent: “ad-vent: a coming into place, or view, or being; an arrival.” Something is coming, and it’s not just a baby.

Historically, the season of Advent was actually considered one of the two penitential seasons of the Church calendar - Lent being the other, and more obvious, one. Likewise, historically, the liturgical color used for Advent was purple - penitential and expectant.

“So why all this penitence? It feels so solemn, and it’s kind of a downer. I thought we were supposed to be happy and sing Christmas songs, drink lots of eggnog, go to dinner parties, decorate the house and the tree, and buy lots of gifts?”

Don’t get me wrong. I’ll be doing most of those things myself in the coming days, but I’ll also be doing something else - I’ll be thinking about something else. Because the little baby Jesus grew up. The little baby Jesus inaugurated the coming of the Kingdom of God (remember Christ the King Sunday last week?). Jesus is more than a baby to be remembered - he is a King to be anticipated! Jesus *had* a first advent (coming, arrival) roughly two thousand years ago, but he is going to have another advent in the future - a second coming.

If you pay attention to the lessons for the Sundays of Advent they initially have nothing to do with Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. But they have **everything** to do with Jesus coming again as King. And when I think about Jesus coming again I think about being ready for that day; and that gives me pause; that causes me to reflect on my life; it compels me to ponder God’s grace towards me and his call to grow in righteousness and faithfulness. And suddenly, before I know it, I look around and it feels a lot like penitence.

So may you stop and take a look around this Advent. It’s good to look back at the first advent of Jesus in his birth, but I’d also highly recommend taking a look forward and lingering in thought and expectation of his second advent. For the King hasn’t just come once, he’s coming again!



The Rev. Gabriel Morrow
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(518) 903-9667 - cell

Gabriel +

EXTRA! EXTRA!
READ ALL ABOUT IT!
CALVARY'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
CALENDAR IS HOT OFF THE PRESSES!



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 10 - 11:45 a.m.

BH MELODY MAKERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Monday, December 11 - 6:30 p.m.

SENIOR LUNCH

Wednesday, December 13 - 12:30 p.m. - (after Noon Eucharist)

Please RSVP by Monday, December 11

Jane Stender 399-5333 or Nancy Tomlinson 399-4416

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

December 17 - After the 9:45 Service

Bring your best ideas and make the Gingerbread House of your dreams!

Margaret Haskell 399-1163 or Deanie McCarthy 399-1912

MITTEN TREE

December 17

From now until December 17 bring in NEW mittens, gloves, scarves, ear muffs, or hats in all shapes, sizes, and colors to decorate the tree. All items will be donated to local outreach.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 a.m. - This is also December 24 / Christmas Eve

Only ONE 'normal' service this weekend. No Saturday night service this weekend.

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist - Perfect for families so, invite a friend!

9:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist - A gently joyful service with a touch of evening solemnity to welcome the Christ-child

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. - The Christ Mass



REFLECTIONS

Darkness and Light whh

December is a wondrous time of contrasts. Frantic preparations, peaceful reflections. Bone-chilling days, fireside nights. Tragedy on the front page, hope in our hearts. Even three wise kings who followed a starry light long ago were dogged by the evil darkness of another king. Perhaps the boundless joy of Advent and Christmas prevails year after year not *despite* the world's darkness but *because* of it. As Christians, we choose to hold close the light of Christ's birth. We see the darkness in our world yet choose to keep the flame of God's love burning.

"The darkness will never totally go away," writes Father Richard Rohr in his reflection, *Waiting in Darkness*. "I've worked long enough in ministry to know that darkness isn't going to disappear, but that, as John's Gospel says, 'the light shines on inside of the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it' (1:5). Such is the Christian form of yin-yang, our own belief in paradox and mystery.

"We must all hope and work to eliminate darkness, especially in many of the great social issues of our time. We wish world hunger could be eliminated. We wish we could stop wasting the earth's resources on armaments. We wish we could stop killing people from womb to tomb. But at a certain point, we have to surrender to the fact that the darkness has always been here, and the only real question is how to receive the light and spread the light. That is not capitulation any more than the cross was capitulation. It is real transformation into the absolutely unique character and program of the risen Christ.

"What we need to do is recognize what is, in fact, darkness and then learn how to live in creative and courageous relationship to it. In other words, don't name darkness *light*. Don't name darkness *good*, which is the seduction that has happened to many of our people on both left and right. They have not been taught wisdom or discernment for the most part. The most common way to release our inner tension is to cease calling darkness *darkness* and to pretend it is passable light. Another way to release your inner tension is to stand angrily, obsessively against it, but then you become a mirror image of it. Everyone can usually see this but you!

"Our Christian wisdom is to name the darkness as darkness, and the Light as light, and to learn how to live and work in the Light so that the darkness does not overcome us. If we have a pie-in-the-sky, everything-is-beautiful attitude, we are in fact going to be trapped by the darkness because we are not seeing clearly enough to separate the wheat from the chaff.

"Conversely, if we can only see the darkness and forget the more foundational Light, we will be destroyed by our own negativity and fanaticism, or we will naively think we are *apart from the darkness*. Instead, we must wait and work with hope inside of the darkness—while never doubting the light that God always is—and that we are too (Matthew 5:14). That is the narrow birth canal of God into the world—*through* the darkness and into an ever greater Light."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteous and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Psalms 85:10-11

Praise the LORD! Oh give he is good, for his steadfast *Psalm*

“LIVING A STEWARDSHIP LIFE” REPORT

Our Fall Stewardship program centered on the theme Living a Stewardship Life and culminated in a Parish luncheon during Consecration Sunday on November 12. In the three weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday, three members of the stewardship team, Scott Soule, Alfred Sive and Kim Ireland, gave thoughtful and inspiring talks about what stewardship and Calvary means to each of them. Scott talked about the meaning of consecration, our need to give, and celebrating God's love for us as we renew our commitment to Him. Alfred spoke about people's innate desire for community and how that leads to true happiness, which many of us experience in the loving, caring community we have at Calvary. He encouraged us to continue supporting Calvary as best we can, each in our own way. Kim gave a heartfelt talk about her stewardship journey and the many ways she has been blessed by God and Calvary, and how we are called to be a blessing to others through our personal stewardship. At services on Consecration Saturday and Sunday, Fr. Morrow gave a thought-provoking sermon about the Biblical foundations of why we give as Christians, and the importance of our faith. Other members of the stewardship team, Deanie McCarthy, Jane Stender, and Sue Ellen Reutsch contributed behind the scenes with prayer and organizational details.

At the Celebration Luncheon, we reported pledges received for 2018 totaled a bit over \$107,000. In the ensuing two weeks since Consecration Sunday additional pledges received now bring this total to \$129,415, so that we now exceed the \$128,511 pledged for 2017. This despite their being 14 giving units pledged in 2017, who have not yet pledged for 2018. More encouragement comes from noting that pledging units for 2018 include three new members who joined Calvary in 2017, and five units who gave regularly but did not pledge in 2017. See the table on the bottom of the next page for more details.

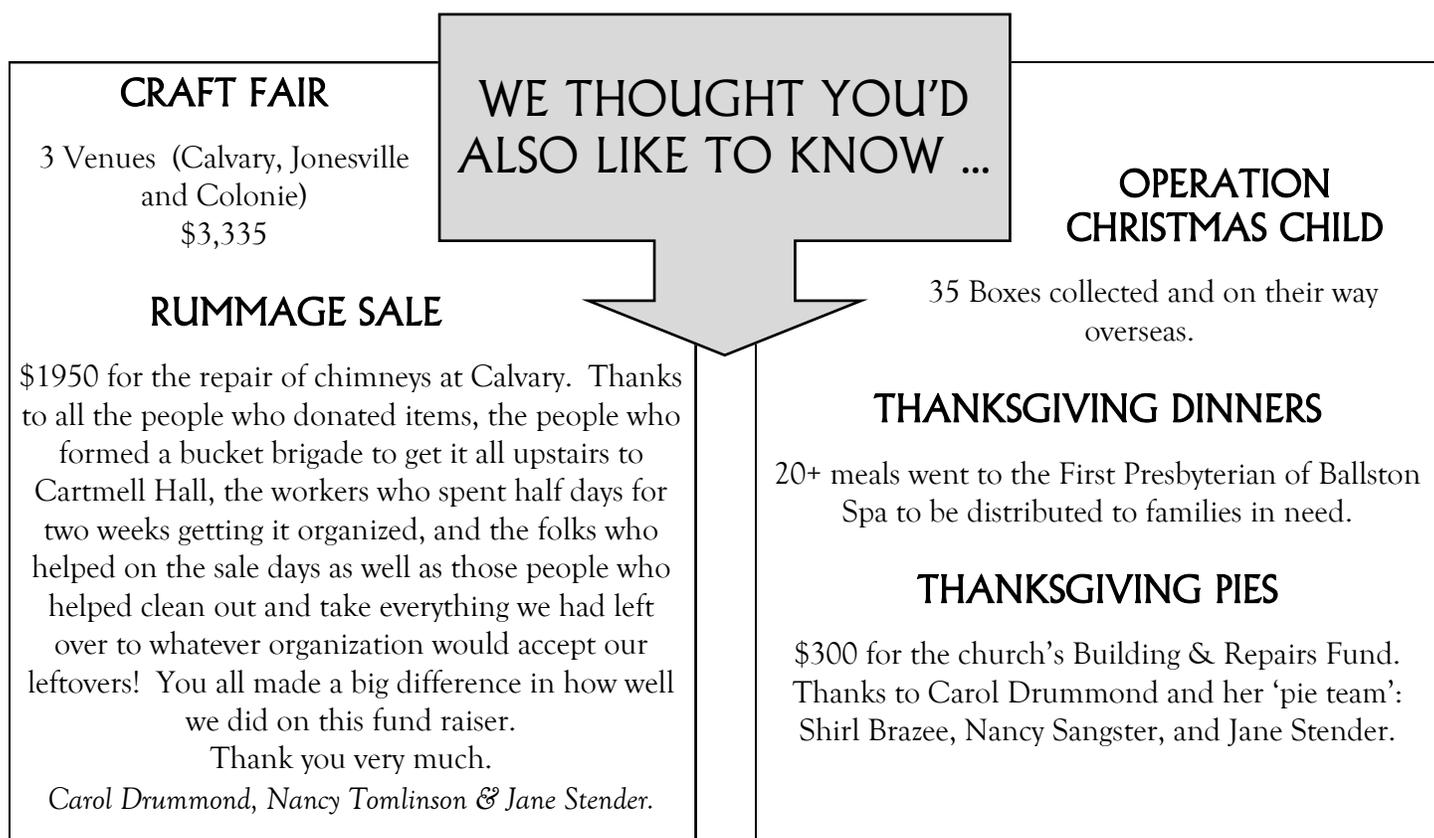
These results are indeed encouraging and will be further updated and reported to you at the end of the calendar year in preparation for the Parish Annual Meeting on January 21, 2018. If you have not yet pledged for 2018, and would still like to do so, pledge cards can be found on the table just inside the Parish Hall. The Office Manager can provide an envelope for the pledge which should then be directed to Alfred Sive, Treasurer.

Many thanks go our Stewardship Team. Antoinette Maniatty again provided very capable leadership as she has done for so many years. Team members included Kim Ireland, Scott Soule, Alfred Sive, Sue Ellen Ruetsch, Deanie McCarthy and Father Morrow. Special thanks also go to all those who helped prepare and cleanup at our joyful Celebration Luncheon.

(Pledge Status Chart on the following page.)

thanks to the LORD, for love endures forever!

106:1



CATEGORY	2017 (as of 12/31/16)	2018 (as of 11/26/17)
Number of Regular Contributors - Pledged	43	42
Total Amount Pledged	\$128,511	\$129,415
Number of Pledgers in 2017 Not Yet Pledged in 2018	N/A	13
Projected Amount From Pledgers in 2017 Not Yet Pledged in 2018	N/A	\$14,424
Projected Number of Regular Unpledged Contributors	19	9
Projected Amount from Regular Unpledged Contributors	\$15,100	\$9,460
Total Projected - Pledged and Unpledged Regular Contributors	\$143,611	\$153,299



PARISH NURSE NOTES

Good Cheer, Goodwill, and Good Deeds - *The Health Benefits*

Holiday parties, homemade desserts, and hot toddies: The holiday season is a whirlwind of excitement, family and fun.

The downside of this time of year is unwanted side effects like stress, weight gain, less sleep, and more debt. After all, who has time to focus on wellness when there are presents to be wrapped and guests to be entertained?

But it doesn't have to be that way. The holidays can be filled with gratifying, satisfying experiences that are good for both your body and your mind. Good cheer, goodwill, and good deeds will make you feel happier, healthier, and more positive. And it doesn't have to end when the year does.

Investing in friends, family, charity, and the right spirit can be part of your daily life 365 days a year.

GOOD CHEER

Spending quality time with loved ones releases oxytocin into your blood, which plays an important role in regulating mood and induces feelings of connection, warmth and empathy. It turns out warm-fuzzy feelings can lead to a healthier heart. Oxytocin reduces inflammation in the cardiovascular system, which plays a major role in heart disease. That's not the only way that good cheer is good for your heart. Research has found that giving thanks for the positive aspects in life could result in improved mental and physical health in people with heart problems.

GOODWILL

Have you ever thought about what the concept of good will actually means? *Merriam-Webster* says that good will is "a kind, helpful, or friendly feeling or attitude." In other words, you can foster good will by being kind and helpful to others. It turns out that acts of kindness come with huge health benefits. A study published in *Current Directions in Psychological Science* found that simple positive activities such as practicing random acts of kindness could boost your sense of well-being.

Whether that means assisting an elderly neighbor or complimenting a stranger, the study found that the kind acts help: foster your charitable perceptions of others, increase your sense of cooperation and interdependence, and make you more aware of your good fortune.

Being kind makes you happier, plain and simple.

GOOD DEEDS

This is the time of year to give to those in need, whether it's someone you know or a complete stranger. While giving is good for the recipient, don't be surprised if you receive a big dose of happiness in the process!

Being generous can: help you perceive others more compassionately, foster a sense of connection with your community, and allow you to appreciate your own good fortune. Besides the inherent good of helping those who need it, giving to others may actually help you live longer.

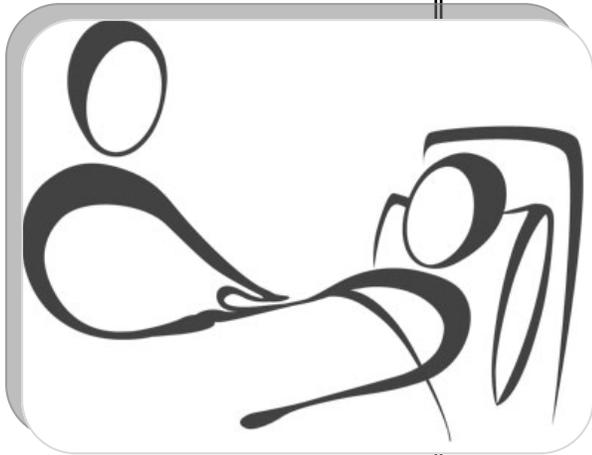


A study by the Corporation for National and Community Service suggested that giving also helps you feel a sense of purpose. Researchers theorize that old volunteers benefit more than other age groups for this very reason.

But the benefits of giving aren't restricted to older age. Research from the University of Illinois suggests that altruistic adolescents and teens are less likely to become depressed. Why is this? Researchers surmise that spending time volunteering at a local animal shelter or retirement community helps promote social connection, cooperation, and satisfaction, while decreasing stress.

TAKEAWAY

The holidays can be a stressful time but that doesn't mean you can't remain healthy and happy during this festive, hectic season. Take your health into your own hands by living the values of good cheer, goodwill, and good deeds.



HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or your loved one enters the hospital for any reason I would count it as a great privilege to come and visit with you/them and pray. In less dispersed contexts it is not too hard, even in this day and age, to call up the local hospital and find out who might be there from your church. However, in our situation here in Burnt Hills with the number of medical facilities at our disposal it is very difficult for me to locate a parishioner without being told the details of what hospital you are in.

I would love to visit you or your loved ones, so please let me know. It is in no way an inconvenience - night or day.

Instead it is a great privilege!

My cell phone # is (518) 903-9667.

Thank you! You bless me!

- Fr. Gabriel +

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

December

BIRTHDAYS

Paul Rasmussen	5
Kim Ireland	10
Gertrude Agar	14
Margie Wheeler	16
Dave Davis	16
Corinne DuBois	17
JoAnn Zelker	19
Jaxon Sive	25
Carly Conlen	26
Margaret Haskell	27

ANNIVERSARIES

Charles & Wendy Haugh	18
David & Sue Ellen Ruetsch	19
Tom & Marianne Miller	28

MEMORIALS

Constance Barrett	2	Minnie Swatling	18
Susan Fitzpatrick	6	Bradley Engel	18
Robert Moore	6	Sophie Buetow	19
Albert Myrick	7	Earl William Dimler	21
Robert L. Clement	8	Mary Dunn	21
Wilbur Hawthorne	9	Rev. Arthur Bridgers	22
Helen L. Lifter	10	Charles Duncan	22
Gordon Sack	11	Isabelle Buck	26
Marie Beach	11	Bessie Quantock	28
Lillian Smith	12	Robert Beach	29
Augusta Dabney	16	Pat Gebert	29
Richard Hobday	16	Mabel Wyckoff	30
Harrison Barr	17		



December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 MISSION SUN Holy Eucharist 7:45 & 9:45 Christian Frm 8:45 Filwshp 8:45 & 11:00	4 Bible Study w/ Tom 2:00 p.m. BH Melody Makers 7:00 p.m.	5 Daughters of the King 7:00 p.m.	6 Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m.	7 Women's Bible Study 11:30 a.m.	1 Holy Eucharist at Glendale Home 10:00 a.m. Yng. Lvng. Essen. Oils -6:30 p.m.	2 Holy Eucharist 5:00 p.m.
10 Holy Eucharist 7:45 & 9:45 Christian Frm 8:45 DOK Ladies Lunch 11:45	11 Bible Study w/ Tom 2:00p.m. BH Melody Makers Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m.	12 Vestry 7:00 p.m.	13 Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m. Senior Luncheon 12:30 p.m.	14 Special Video of the Nativity Story w/ Jude Sweet 11:30 a.m.	15 Christmas Caroling at Glendale Home 4:30 p.m.	16 Holy Eucharist 5:00 p.m.
17 Holy Eucharist 7:45 & 9:45 Christian Frm 8:45 Gingerbread Houses 11:00	18 Bible Study w/ Tom 2:00 p.m.	19	20 Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m.	21 Holy Eucharist at Judson Meadows 10:30 a.m. No Women's Bible Study	22	23 <u>NO</u> 5:00 Service
24 4th Sun of Advent Holy Euch. - 10:00 a.m. - No Christian Form Christmas Eve Services 4:00 & 9:30 p. m.	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	26	27 Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m.	28 Newsletter Folding No Women's Bible Study	29	30 Holy Eucharist 5:00 p.m.
31 Holy Eucharist 7:45 & 9:45 No Christian Form Filwshp 8:45 & 11:00						

DECEMBER SERVERS' SCHEDULE											
DATE	7:45 & 9:45		9:45		7:45		9:45		9:45		
	CELEBRANT	DEACON	ACOLYTES	LECTORS	LECTORS	LEM	INTERCESSOR	USHER	VESTRY GREETER	FELLOWSHIP	COUNTERS
Dec 3 Advent 1	Fr. Gabriel	L. Bartlett	E. Guyer (T) J. Guyer (T) J. Soule (C)	A. Morrow (OT) S. Ruetsch (NT)	M. Reyes (OT) A. Maniatty (NT)	J. Sweet	5:00 - J. Spencer 7:45-N. Sangster 9:45-L. Suda	Gerlach Family	Jude Sweet	Maniatty/ Anderson Family	Dave & Jane Stender
Dec 10 Advent 2	Fr. Gabriel	L. Bartlett M. Sive	M. Ireland (T) A. Ireland (T) A. Morrow (C)	J. Stender (OT) L. Suda (NT)	A. Maniatty (OT) L. Little (NT)	M. Bartlett	5:00 - J. Spencer 7:45- D McCarthy 9:45-	Douglass Family	Jane Stender	Wheeler Family	Paul & Margie Wheeler
Dec 17 Advent 3	Fr. Haskell	L. Bartlett M. Sive	A. Morrow (T) J. Morrow (T) C. Soule (C)	J. DuBois (OT) D. Stender (NT)	D. McCarthy (OT) M. Reyes (NT)	J. Sweet	5:00 - J. Spencer 7:45- L. Little 9:45-A. Soule	Wheeler Family	Deanie McCarthy	DuBois Family	Dale & Carol Douglass
Dec 24 Advent 4 10:00 a.m.	Fr. Gabriel	L. Bartlett M. Sive	A. Ireland (T) M. Ireland (T) A. Morrow (C)	J. Guyer (OT) L. Dubois (NT)	NA	M. Bartlett	10:00- J. Stender	Rasmussen Family	Rich Gerlach	Gerlach Family	Carol Furey Dot Sies
Dec 31	Fr. Gabriel	L. Bartlett M. Sive	J. Soule (T) T. Soule (T) C. Soule (C)	M. Jacobs (OT) C. Jacobs (NT)	L. Little (OT) D. McCarthy (NT)	J. Sweet	5:00 - J. Spencer 7:45- L. Shorey 9:45-A. Soule	Du Bois Family	John Guyer	Jacob Family	Dave & Jane Stender

DECEMBER LECTIONARY				
DATE	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
Dec 3 Advent 1	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Dec 10 Advent 2	Isaiah 40:1-11	85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec 17 Advent 3	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 24 Advent 4 10:00 a.m. only	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:26-38	Luke 1:26-38
Dec 24 & 25 Christmas	Isaiah 9:2-7	96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Dec 31 Christmas 1	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18

ALTAR FLOWERS



December 3
Given for Spence Haugh
by Wendy and Chuck Haugh

December 10
Still available

December 17

Given in loving memory of Richard Hobday
by Marjorie Hobday

December 24
Still available

December 31
Still available

**EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MOST CURRENT ACTIVITIES VISIT
CALVARYBH.ORG/CALENDAR or call the office (518) 399-7230**



CLERGY

The Rev. Gabriel Morrow
Rector

The Rev. Deacon Laurie Bartlett
Youth Ministry / Daughters of the King
The Rev. Deacon Marian Sive
Acolytes / Secretary of the Diocese

STAFF

Office Managers
Deanie McCarthy
Jude Sweet
Treasurer
Alfred Sive
Assistant Treasurer
Jim Ireland
Church Musicians
Elaine Carrubba
Jonathan Indajang
Sexton
Debbie Rickson
Parish Nurses
Carol Drummond
Linda Little

VESTRY 2018

Margaret Haskell - *Parish Life*
Deanie McCarthy - *Senior Warden*
Jude Sweet - *Worship*

2019

John Guyer - *Education*
Alfred Sive - *Treasurer*
Jane Stender - *Junior Warden*

2020

Rich Gerlach - *Technology*
Paul Rasmussen - *Building & Grounds*
Margie Wheeler - *Outreach*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

Holy Eucharist ♦ 7:45 & 9:45 a.m.
Fellowship following each service.
Christian Formation ♦ 8:45 a.m.

Mondays

Bible Study ♦ 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Holy Eucharist ♦ 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays

Women's Bible Study ♦ 11:30 a.m.

Saturdays

Holy Eucharist ♦ 5:00 p.m.

10 COMMANDMENTS BIBLE STUDY Q & A

- Q1) What are the Ten Commandments?
A1) Read Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5
- Q2) To whom were they given?
A2) The Israelite nation
- Q3) Did God make a covenant with the Israelites about the Commandments?
A3) Yes. If they followed the commandments He would protect and provide for them.
- Q4) Are they part of the Abrahamic Covenant?
A4) Yes. They are within the Abrahamic covenant. Read Genesis 15
- Q5) Do they summarize the entire Law of Moses?
A5) Yes, but only the most crucial parts. But all summaries have limits, even the commandments. And they omit a lot of vital details that are in the complete Law of Moses. For example, they omit the punishments for worshipping other, unknown gods. Read Deuteronomy 13. Another example would be how to deal with individuals who accidentally kill someone, read Deuteronomy 19.
- Q6) Are we still obligated to keep them?
A6) Not as a way to earn salvation. But Jesus said that great in the Kingdom of Heaven would be those who followed the Law and taught others to do so. Least in the Kingdom would be those who didn't follow it and taught others not to do so also. They remind us of the Holiness of God and are a "mirror" to our flaws. James 1:22 - 25 stresses the need to be obedient to God's Word and not hearers only.
- Q7) Were the Commandments both civil and religious in application?
A7) Some were, e.g. not to bear false witness.
- Q8) How hard are they to keep?
A8) Impossible for humans to keep them perfectly.
- Q9) Did Jesus keep all the Commandments?
A9) Yes
- Q10) Did earlier laws exist?
A10) Undoubtedly. For example there were prohibitions against eating blood. This prohibition was maintained at the First Council in the Book of Acts.
- Q11) What do the Commandments tell us about God?
A11) He is a Being wherein both love and fairness (or justice) reside to an extent beyond human understanding. While we are made in God's image, God is the substance. God spoke to the Israelites "out of the fire" explaining to them that He is One God and that He is near them (read Deuteronomy 4:32 - 40). He also explains that He meant these laws for their good.

CHECK OUT TOM CARRUBBA'S CURRENT BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF DANIEL. MONDAYS AT 2:00 IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM.

CHURCH OFFICE

(518) 399-7230

By Mail: P.O. Box 41
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

In Person: 85 Lake Hill Road
omanager@calvarybh.org

Monday - Friday ♦ 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

calvarybh.org

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