

CALVARY Catalyst

EASTER 2024



The Stream Team: Praise, Ken, Ben & Heather.

GOD IS WITH US!

Just prior to Ash Wednesday this year, I thought of giving up my favourite chocolate candy bar as a way of repentance during the season of Lent. Then I thought, why would I give up my occasional chocolate bar fix but instead I could donate the money spent on the chocolate bars to the M&S fund of the United Church of Canada or to one of Calvary's outreach projects. Truth be told, I don't purchase many chocolate bars, however it is an indulgence I do like to partake in from time to time. I realized that my repentance was superficial in nature if I were to give up chocolate for the six weeks of Lent. Therefore, in deciding not to give up chocolate during Lent I turned my focus to following the Spiritual Practices calendar that was handed out to those that were in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of Lent.

The 2nd Sunday in Lent, I followed up with the youth and asked how they were doing with the Spiritual Practices from the previous week. Whoops, perhaps not the question I should have asked them and many in the pews as well. We are a forgiven people when we have failed the promises made to ourselves and to God. God does understand and continues to be with us, each of us in our departure from what we intended to do, to be in right relationship with God.

Reflecting on this opens us to a significant lesson during our Lenten journey: that we at times fail in our relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. In our humanness we tend to fail, not intentionally, but we do fail from time to time. We fail but God does not abandon

us. When we fail, we know the saving grace of Jesus Christ is with us throughout our Lenten journey and in our daily living.

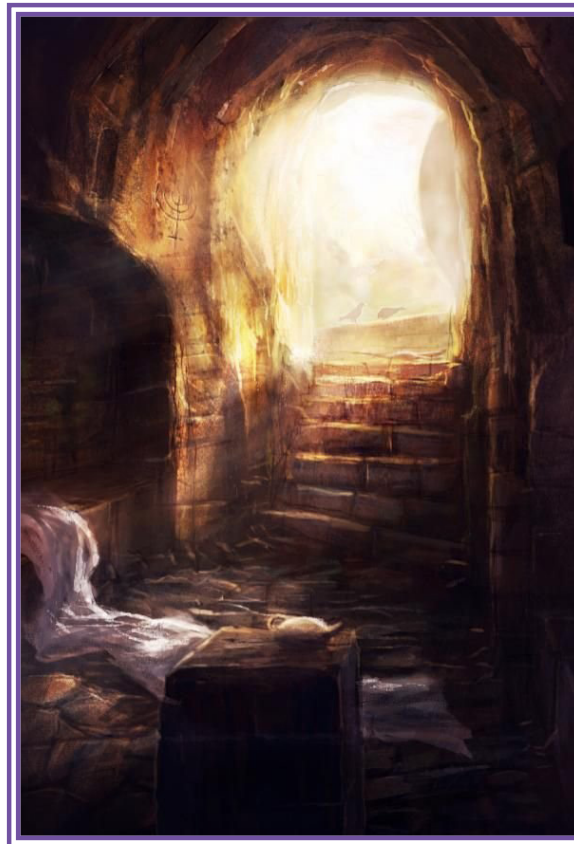
During the season of Lent, we have read scriptures about Jesus' teaching and healing, which are followed by the joy of Jesus' journey, on the back of a colt, into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. After His triumphant entrance into the Holy City, we read about the celebration of His last supper with his closest friends. Jesus then prays, is arrested, tried, and then crucified for our sins on Good Friday. He indeed is Risen on the third day, Easter Sunday, and we celebrate the hope of the resurrected Christ, our Redeemer. We sing Alleluias and give thanks for the wonderful gift of salvation that Jesus has given to each of us.

Whether we give up chocolate or other indulgences during Lent, or we have decided instead to use the Spiritual Practices calendar, remember that we are God's beloved children and at times we do fail. However God does not abandon us.

Let us continue to search our hearts to live into right relations with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as we continue our Lenten journey to the cross and the tomb where the stone is rolled away.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."
John 3:16. For this revelation, and not for chocolate, we are forgiven and grateful.

May the joy of the Resurrected Christ be with you.
- Rev. Kerry (he, him)



*Calvary... just the beginning... in relationship with nature, with our neighbour,
and continually discovering ourselves in God.*

From the office files

On November 26, Calvary welcomed three new members:

Sharon Mistele
Regena Kress
Beth McCarthy



In addition, on November 26th, Calvary welcomed through baptism:

Madeline Harrison, daughter of Kendra Harrison and Christopher Fraser.

The Calvary Community was saddened by the recent passing of:

Lorne Hooper
Reta Astles

*"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4*

Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday/Communion/Benevolent Fund collection – March 24, 10:30 am

Congregation Hybrid Meeting for the Affirm Vote – March 24, 11:30 am

Maunder Thursday – March 28, 7:00 pm @ **White Oaks UC**

Good Friday – March 29, 10:30 am @ **Wesley-Knox UC**

Easter Sunday – March 31, 10:30 am

Jazz Vespers, "Pieces of April" – April 3, 7 pm

Earth Sunday – April 7, 10:30 am

Welcome to Calvary



In November, Calvary welcomed three new members:
Front row, left to right: Sharon Mistele, Regena Kress and Beth McCarthy with her granddaughter.
Back row: Bill Butt (*Chair of Council*), Rev. Kerry Stover.

CALVARY Catalyst

The Calvary Catalyst is published four times a year. Its purpose is to inform and report on news and events at Calvary United Church.

Submission deadline for the next issue is:
Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Send submissions to Bruce Jones: scouterbruce@rogers.com

Calvary United Church

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email: calvaryuc@execulink.com • www.calvaryuc.ca

Financial Support for Pursuing Post-Secondary School Education Application Deadline April 30, 2024

The Board of Trustees administers two programs designed to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants pursuing post-secondary school education at a Canadian university or college. The application deadline for the school year starting this coming September is April 30.

Full details and application forms for the Scholarship Program and the Bursary Program are on the church website (www.calvaryunitedchurch.on.ca).

– Wally Robinson

I see England, I see France, London needs our underpants!



It's Undie Sunday time again.

Can you believe that a year has passed since we did this last?

Mission Services are thrilled to hear that we're doing it again. They thanked us for our faithfulness with this project.

Most needed are: Medium/small men/boys boxers. Men's casual shoes/sandals size 10/11. Women's underwear medium/small. They are desperate for travel-size toiletries.

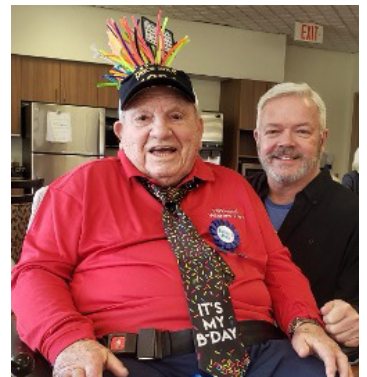
Drop off is Mother's Day and the weekend following. If you wish to do your own purchasing, please do so, but we know by pooling our monies gives us a significant discount at a nearby store, so if you would prefer to give me a cheque, cash or e-transfer me, krisgoodman@live.ca, I will try for the biggest benefit I can find.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support.
– Kristen Goodman

Birthday Celebrations!

Guess who celebrated his 100th birthday on March 1, 2024? Rev. Dr. Graham Tipple, Calvary's Minister Emeritus. He was joined by family members, his many friends at the Parkwood Veterans Care and Rev. Kerry.

Dr. Tipple served as Calvary's minister from 1968 to 1983 and continues to attend Sunday's worship services each Sunday morning on-line. *"Congratulations Graham on your milestone and best wishes from all of your friends at Calvary."*





Sheilah Hogarth, Distinguished Londoner, Mayor's New Year's Honour List for 2024

Sheilah lives in London's northwest and has actively been collecting litter throughout the city for the last 12 years. Surgery to help her epilepsy allowed her to be more independent and motorized wheelchairs have allowed her to be mobile. She has been giving back to the city of London and encouraging others to do their part as well.

Her contributions not only beautify the city, but also help protect wildlife, plant life, waterways, soil and ecosystems from toxic and dangerous chemicals and materials that could adversely affect much of God's wondrous creation right here in the city of London.

For her contributions to our London community and her time giving back, Sheilah was named a Distinguished Londoner for the 2024 Mayor's New Year's Honour List.

Congratulations, Sheilah!

Christmas at Calvary...

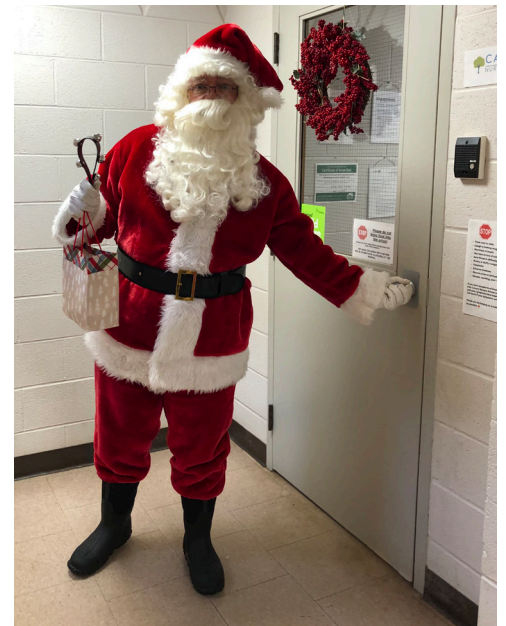
"Pageant in the Pews" took place on Christmas Eve and was very well attended. Both adults and children got the opportunity to dress-up as their favourite pageant character and we had lots of angels, shepherds, wise people, some camels

and a donkey. Not surprisingly, most people wanted to be an angel! Special thanks to Ruthanne McLagan who wrote the Pageant (assisted by Rev. Kerry) and also designed the costumes.



Christmas at CHAMPION...

Mouth-watering decorated cookies for coffee, tea and juice time after the Dec. 24th worship service. Thanks to Marg and Mary and the children for the wonderful treats that Sunday. Next Sunday Social is Easter Sunday.



HO! HO! HO!...

Santa Claus (aka Rev. Kerry), made a surprise visit to the Calvary Nursery School on Dec. 22nd.



Greetings from the London Community Chaplaincy

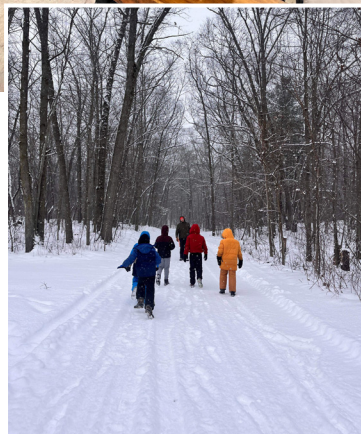
Rev. Pam reports...

On Pancake Tuesday, pancakes were served for lunch at Southdale and Limberlost. For Valentine's Day, "Blessing Bags" donated by volunteers, were provided to Moms to encourage them as they may not feel appreciated and may feel lonely on Valentine's Day. On International Women's Day, March 8, there was a special "Moms' Day Out" at the YMCA followed by lunch at a nearby church.

The Chaplaincy hosted "Canada Learning Bond Information Nights" in February to encourage parents to sign up for this great RESP opportunity. Low income families simply needed to sign up for CLB, and they would receive \$2,000.00 per child to help with college or university.

The boys recently returned from a Winter Day at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. Children and youth are busy with regular programs, and we are busy planning for March Break which is a highlight for all.

Thank you, Calvary, for all your support and kindness!
- Linda Baker, Outreach



WINTER ON THE GREEN...

While our garden may be resting, CALVARY GREEN still have lots of ongoing projects. MILK BAG collection will continue. We have found another church, St Paul's United Church in Aylmer. They have a Thursday work-bee making the sleeping mats. It takes almost 500 bags per mat! Although we are steady, we don't collect enough bags to warrant our own production line. They are happy to receive them.

METRO PLASTIC:

Unfortunately, Metro is no longer providing recycling bins and have discontinued this service. The recycling facility they used only want clear (no print or coloured) plastic now and Metro has no way to separate it. We hope to can find another outlet for our plastic. So until further notice, we are still a go. Until then, we must be even more diligent.

REMEMBER:

- REFUSE plastic bags or extra plastic coverings when shopping.
- REDUCE by carrying your own mesh bags for produce and all purchases.
- REUSE bags many times over.
- REPURPOSE bags as much as possible, be creative.
- REPORT an interest to grocery chain stores to provide recycling bins for plastics.



THERE'S MORE:

- London's GREEN BIN collection is finally a go! Log on to Green Bin London for more details.
- Green in the city. (Channel 13) offers helpful Environmental News.



The mat making group at St Paul's United Church in Aylmer.

- Mark your calendar: Earth fest, Saturday, April 20 (Central Library). A great success last year... more info to follow.
- Our next Green Service will be Sunday, April 14.
- Looking forward to Spring and our Calvary garden. We will be putting sign-up sheets for WW (Watering and Weeding) DUTY.
- Although Spring is calling, don't pick up those rakes too soon. Let the grass dry out well, start to green up and sprout new growth.

All thumbs are welcome, green or otherwise!

- Lyse Geldard

JAZZ VESPERS AT CALVARY



Rev. Kerry Stover with musicians Nevin Campbell, Larry Ernewein, Sandy MacKay, Ken McLagan and vocalist Sonja Gustafson



Join us in April...

JAZZ VESPERS

Musicians
Nevin Campbell,
Ken McLagan,
Larry Ernewein,
Sandy MacKay,
& minister
Kerry Stover

"Pieces of April"

Wed. April 3rd at 7:00 pm
Calvary United Church
290 Ridout St. South at Garfield

More info call 519-434-5526 or www.calvaryuc.ca
FREEWILL OFFERING IS APPRECIATED • ENTER PARKING LOT FROM RIDOUT ST.



Outreach Update

On behalf of the Outreach committee, we'd like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), our Advent project for this year.

The soup lunch held on Anniversary Sunday raised \$653. The proceeds from the apple pie sales were \$250. The receipted CFGB envelope offerings amounted to \$4,055. The grand total going to the CFGB, Caradoc Growing Project this year is \$4958. Fun fact: we have only exceeded this total one time since 2013. At that time we were still holding the Harvest Dinner.

In 2022, \$61,000 was sent to the head office of the CFGB in Winnipeg from the Caradoc Growing Project. This includes money from the sale of the crops, individual donations and money raised by supporting congregations. The supporting congregations include Oakridge Presbyterian, Calvary, Metropolitan and Byron United Churches in London and Mount Brydges and Cook's United.

In 2022 the yields from both the Bolton and the McCracken farms were good.

In 2023, \$37,950 was raised from the Caradoc Growing Project which is unfortunately much less than in 2022. Apparently there were some individual and congregational donations that were sent directly to head office, so were

not captured as part of the total. This is one reason the money raised appeared to be not as large as 2022. Also, the Bolton farm's conditions were poor due to inadequate rain early in the spring. Later in the growing season, there were four occasions where the field was flooded because of too much rain.



Initially corn was planted, but the crop had to be pulled out and beans were planted instead. Although the bean crop did fairly well, the yield overall was less. Fortunately the McCracken farm had a successful crop in 2023. Sadly climate change is wreaking increased havoc on crops, more so than in the past, affecting yields and monetary totals as a result. We are grateful to Rick and Betty McCracken and Dave and Cheryl Bolton for their dedication to ending world hunger.

We'd also like to thank everyone for their generous donations to LIFE*SPIN. We took at least seven carloads in

total on two occasions to their Dundas Street free store.

People living in precarious economic situations appreciate LIFE*SPIN's ability



to provide warm clothing, toys, towels, bedding, and kitchenware at no cost. A special shout out goes to the Girl Guides and Embers who contributed to Calvary's collection. Thanks again for your ongoing generosity!

- Bonnie and Karen, co-chairs of Outreach

