

The  2018

Newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church

All receive the newsletter by e-mail. To request a paper copy, please e-mail the church office at parish.office@calvary-episcopal.net or call 908-782-7227.

I have to admit: Advent is my favorite time of the year. I love gathering the family at the table after dinner. I look forward to turning off all the lights and sitting in darkness and silence around the Advent wreath. I am always amazed at how much light one candle can make in a dark room. Each Sunday another candle is lit to remind us that the light of the world is coming. As we move toward the darkest part of the year the candles help us to mark the passing of time in a busy season. Maybe you have one of those Advent calendars with the little windows and inside there is a Bible verse and a chocolate. I have found the Lego Advent calendar to be a hit at my house.

The wreaths and the calendars help us to mark this time and to wait. It is a season of waiting and longing for the one who is to come. We watch and wait for the coming of Jesus in power and great glory. And so we pray, Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. We know that he will change the world and us. He will change us because he is the light who is coming into the world. As the Psalmist says, “in your light we see light.” In his light we open our eyes and see as if it were for the first time.

In Advent many of the readings read on Sunday mornings come from parts of the Bible that can be difficult to understand. For the next couple of weeks in the Adult Education Forum at 9am on Sunday mornings, we will be going over these texts and discussing how to read and interpret them. I am excited to be here with you this Advent and I look forward to celebrating Christmas with you.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas,
Fr. Nathan Ritter
From the Wardens

It has been a busy time for Calvary lately. As everyone knows by now Fr. Nathan Ritter answered the call to lead our flock thereby completing the work of the Discernment team. We are delighted to have him.

As always, we owe a debt of gratitude to Keith Conover and the Property Team as they continue to not only maintain our aging facility but also improve the property and provide some much needed major repairs.

Our capital campaign is still in progress with several of the projects being completed. Major undertakings such as the removal of the oil tank outside the church and the clean bill of health for the soil resulted in a big sigh of relief.

“Take Me to Church” Day in November was a big success, led by Christine Little and her team. Christine also assembled a group of folks to open our Parish Hall as a comfort station for the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. These events broaden our visibility in the neighborhood and invite people to come in and see what we have to offer them.

Roxanne Zellin and the Fellowship Team, including Roxanne’s husband Steven, fed us well with brunch on New Consecration Sunday.

The Seaman’s Institute received ditty bags assembled by Lynn Cote and her team. This ministry provides much needed toiletries to the Merchant Marines in the winter.

We have so many members of our congregation who work, often behind the scenes, to keep things running smoothly, like the Office Angels. Without these dedicated folks, Calvary would not be the wonderful community it is.

We celebrated New Consecration Sunday on the first Sunday of Advent to culminate our Stewardship campaign. We thank all who have made their pledges for 2019 and eagerly await the remaining pledges in order for the vestry to complete the budget for next year. We encourage you to prayerfully consider “stepping up” or move toward tithing as much as you can as you consider your gift to God. Details on the result of the Stewardship campaign and plans for the 2019 budget will be forthcoming.

Thank you to everyone for coming together at Calvary to do God’s work.

Jean Good - Sr. Warden

Karen Sammer - Jr. Warden

Calvary Episcopal Church
44 Broad Street, Flemington, NJ 08822-1458
Office: 908-782-7227
Web Site: www.calvary-episcopal.net
Sunday Mornings: Holy Eucharist at 8:00am and 10:00am
9:00am & 11:00am Fellowship



Weekly Schedule

December 9, 2018 The Second Sunday of Advent

Angel Tree Gifts Due
Youth Group's Annual Cookie Sale
Flemington Holiday Parade

Global Goal: Life below Water

Friday, Dec. 14th – Christmas Carol Sing-a-long & Potluck Dinner

December 16, 2018 The Third Sunday of Advent

Global Goal: Life on Land

December 23, 2018 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Global Goal: Peace & Justice and Strong Institutions

December 30, 2018 The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Global Goal: Partnerships for the Goals

See back cover for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Calvary Ministries

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP for Children, Teens, and Adults

The "formation and education" of people of all ages in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Tuesdays at Ten

Our study group meets each week from 10-11:30 in the All Saints' Room, starting with morning prayer. On December 18, we will move our session to Judy Stothoff's house - 3 Northridge Road in Flemington, starting at 10 and ending with the annual Advent luncheon.

No meetings on December 25 and January 1 (of course!). The first gathering in 2019 will be January 8, when we'll be spending some time with the eloquent words of the great Hebrew prophets.

COMMUNICATION

Proclaiming our ministry to parish members and beyond.



An extra special thank you goes to the Office Angels this month.
Alice Berry, Liza Kistler, Judy Schoenherr, and Natalie Whiting

They've never missed a Friday over the past 3 years
(and even changed their schedules to come in on a Saturday
when Friday was a snowday!)

WELCOME & FELLOWSHIP

Bringing and welcoming people to the "Calvary branch" of the Church.

*Gatherings of adults, youth, and children to enjoy God's creation of each other.
Assisting people in need within the parish, including pastoral care by clergy.*

Fellowship Events

December



Sunday 12/9 - Annual Cookie Sale

Sunday 12/9 - Flemington Holiday Parade

Friday 12/14 - Christmas Carol Sing-a-long & Potluck Dinner



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Managing the money given for the ministry of the parish.

Here is our financial picture for 2018 as of October. As you can see, income is under what was budgeted based on pledges and other criteria by almost \$8,600. Expenses have been managed very effectively resulting in being under budgeted expenses by almost \$9,300.

Income:

- October Monthly Committed Giving was \$10,862, under budget by \$790
- Annual Committed Giving was \$113,131, under budget by \$3,389
- October Monthly Committed Giving+Total Gifts was \$14,308, over budget by \$32
- Annual Committed Giving+Total Gifts was \$135,096, under budget by \$10,254
- October Monthly Total Income was \$14,734, under budget by \$339

Annual Total Income was \$145,172, under budget by \$8,573

Expenses:

- October Monthly Total Expense was \$14,927, under budget by \$1,282

Annual Total Expenses was \$161,867, under budget by \$9,288

We ask that if you are not up to date on your 2018 commitment that you please catch up as best you can to eliminate the need to further deplete the investment fund.

The following results are from New Consecration Sunday:

Total Number of Responses (Estimate of Giving cards)	29
Number of New Responses	4
Total Dollars	
\$97,160	
Dollar Increase over Last Year (excludes new responses)	
\$13,736	
Number of Responses that Increased over Last Year	
16	
Total Responses Last Year	
57	
Total Dollar Response Last Year	
\$139,828	

This is a great start but we really need everyone to participate in pledging. Regardless of the amount, your commitment makes it possible for the Vestry to set a more accurate budget for the coming year. If you have not already done so, please submit your 2019 pledge as soon as you can. Updated numbers will be provided at the Annual Meeting in January.



Shop Rite Gift Cards for \$50 or \$100 are available for purchase on Sundays after the 8:00am service. Contact Dan or Denise Holzli (908) 782-1304 for details. Shop Rite donates 5% of card value to Calvary.

OUTREACH

Assisting people in need beyond our parish, serving Christ in others,



Flemington Food Pantry Suggestions

Suggested December Donations

- Cream of Wheat/Grits/Old Fashioned or Quick Oat Cereal
- Canned Pears/Peaches in Juice
- Canned Chicken
- Tissues
- Bar Soap
- Dish Detergent
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream/Razors
- Tampons/Sanitary Napkins
- Food Store Gift Card (Gives us increased purchasing power.)

Of course any items are greatly appreciated!

A BIG thank you to all who donated/participated in our Halloween Trick or Treat. A neighbor told us we get about 1400 "kids". There were MANY!! Leftover candy went to Seamen's Church Institute as part of our ditty bags.

Another BIG thank you to all who donated to our Thanksgiving Food Collection for the Pantry. We were able to provide several bags of Thanksgiving "sides".

On Saturday, Dec. 1st, we packed ditty bags at Calvary for Christmas at Sea, with some help from Church of the Holy Spirit. We packed 48 complete bags - knitted items, toiletries, candy & cards. Our extra 120

toiletry bags, scarves & cards went back to SCI for future packing. We hope to get to the port next year for more packing & a tour! **Thank you for everyone's help!**

We will be collecting used Christmas card fronts again, which become part of our SCI/Christmas at Sea project. Please leave in the Food Pantry Box, & we will make that another Calvary project!!

PROPERTY

Using, maintaining, and creating physical space as God intends.

Our collection of scrap metal (copper, brass, aluminum) has been put on hold until further notice.

WORSHIP

Giving sacramental expression to our spiritual lives.



The Flower Guild again requests the support of the parish in the Greening of the Church on Sunday, December 23rd after the last service. Greens will arrive December 22nd and be stored in the Parish Hall. We will need help preparing and hanging wreaths and roping, setting up the tables, placing the poinsettias, arranging the crèche and adding to the tree. Thank you in advance for your assistance in making Calvary beautiful for Our Lord's birth celebration.

Thank you Service Assistants – new and continuing!

We are looking for new acolytes – young and old!

If you are interested, please contact Trey Martin. Training is available. Adults are always needed – this is a great opportunity for a parent that has a child who is or was an acolyte. Teenagers needed too!

If you are already a service assistant, it is important to sign up on the clipboard for the weeks you can serve. If you have to change your assignment, please try to find your replacement and then notify the Parish Office.

Interested in joining the Altar Guild? Please see Joanne Martin. New members are needed and always welcome.

- **Preparing for Baptism?** Please call the Parish Office to enroll.
- **Prayers for the Countries of the World** - Since 9/11 we have been praying for the countries of the world: 12/2 – Ecuador, 12/9 – Egypt, 12/16 – El Salvador, 12/23 – Equatorial Guinea, 12/30 - Eritrea.



The Reason

I'm sure everyone has heard the phrase "Jesus is the reason for the season," but have you considered the real reason for the phrase?

It's not only there to remind us that Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth, but that Jesus IS what we celebrate.

Yes, He is the Son of God, but he was a teacher that taught us how to act, and how to live.

I recently came across a letter that challenged us to imagine Jesus physically present in a congregation like ours—watching what he does, sharing meals with him, interacting with our lives. See him in your mind's eye how warm and welcoming he is, how encouraging and affirming, humble, dependent on God.

To this tiny little Church Mouse, THAT's what the reason of the season is directly from Christ's birth and life example. It doesn't rule out shopping, celebrating, parties or gift-giving. It does encourage doing all these things in Jesus' name and how he would have done it.

Have a holy, blessed, merry Christmas, everyone!!

IN THE COMMUNITY

AA Meetings at Calvary: Monday – Saturday 7:00am to 8:30am
Monday – 7:00pm to 8:00pm

AA Women's Meeting at Calvary: Thursday – 7:00pm to 8:30pm

OUR PARISH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Nathan Ritter – nritter@calvary-episcopal.net

Jennifer Poruczynski – parish.office@calvary-episcopal.net
Sr. Warden: Jean Good 310-9556, jeanegood@gmail.com
Jr. Warden: Karen Sammer 782-3928, klsrjm@aol.com
Treasurers: Gretchen Pozarycki 806-4964, bippoz@comcast.net
Kevin Bruzzio 806-2452, bruzzio@comcast.net



Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24

5:00pm - Christmas Eve Eucharist designed for all ages

8:30pm - Carols for choir and congregation

9:00pm - Festival Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

11:00am - Holy Eucharist