

Calvary Presbyterian Church

6120 North Kings Hwy.
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(703) 768-8510
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Office Hours: Tuesday-
Friday, 10am-4pm

The Staff

The Rev. Michelle
Fincher, Pastor

Judy Viccellio,
Music Director

Linda Teasley,
Choir Director

Jane Kerr, Organist

David Maley,
Accompanist

Claride Mayo,
Clerk of Session

Jim Lawhorn, Treasurer

Michele Hoffman,
Admin. Asst.

June Yamayoshi,
Financial Secy.

2015 Elder Ministry Charges

Worship Team

Paulina Sintim-Aboagye

Congregational Care Team

Alice Miller
Elsie Plues

Mission & Outreach Team

Margaret Yeboah

Property Team

Tony Pittman
Ernest Amankwah
Vincent Edet

Administration Team

Jane Kerr

Winter 2015

The Calvary Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Grace Notes

Dear Friends,

This edition of Grace Notes contains evidence of some of the many ways God is blessing us at Calvary. You'll see pictures of the "awful-to-awesome" kitchen renovation which is complete and completely paid for due to your gracious generosity! Thank you! How poetically fitting that our first use of the new kitchen was for the reception following long-time member (and former church secretary) Sandy Snyder's memorial service.

Not to give you Liturgical Year whiplash, but you'll also see pictures from Advent as well as have an opportunity to begin your Lenten reflections. We are looking forward to a new beginning this Lenten season as we offer a Taize service on February 18 at 7:30 p.m. (Ash Wednesday). This service is designed to prepare us for our Lenten journey with scripture and music, prayer and silence that usher us into deeper and deeper reflection before the Lord. I encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity for worship.

On page 2 you'll see the new members God is continuing to add to the Calvary family. In addition to the three adults who joined in January, there are three more who will be joining later this month. It would be hard to imagine a better start to the year than celebrating God's call in the lives of these new brothers and sisters. I believe each person is led to Calvary for a reason. Sometimes we know

what that is and sometimes we don't, but the journey of discovery is always a joy! We are delighted to welcome them all.

A year or so ago I came up with the idea of adding the column we call *View From the Pew*. I love hearing about the myriad ways we are aware of God's presence, or God speaking to us, or God acting in our lives. These are our *encounters* with God, not just ways we think about God or learn about God. They are stories of the ways in which God makes a difference in our relationships, our circumstances, our attitudes or actions. We are reminded once again that faith in Christ is not a set of rigid doctrines—it's a lived reality, a lifestyle we embrace and inhabit.

I am thoroughly enjoying the sermon series we started this month on The Lord's Prayer. For those of us who have prayed this prayer hundreds of times, it is good to hear afresh what we are actually saying and proclaiming in these familiar words. The God who invites us to call him "Our Father" is a holy, righteous, all-powerful God whose name is to be honored and glorified in all we do and say. What a privilege and blessing to be claimed by this Father as his own children and to be given meaningful work to do in his reign—on earth, right here, right now.

Yours for the Kingdom,

Michelle

Start your Lenten preparation with Calvary's Taize Service on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m. This 45-minute service is a time for silence and reflection, music and Scriptures as we begin our journey towards Holy Week.

We welcome our new members!

We celebrate as we welcome another class of new members on Sunday, January 4. If you haven't already done so, please take time to introduce yourself and get to know them all: **Peter and Anita Amponsah (with toddler Gabriel) and Samuel Kofi Yeboah.**

Ash Wednesday

I wonder why we have waited so long to take ashes to the street.

Who knew that there would be people who were afraid to come inside?

Who knew that this would be the first time that some would have

the ashen sign of the cross pressed upon the forehead?

Who knew so many of us grew up not focusing on ashes,

having no memories of a season called Lent?

Who knew that such a sign could divide the Holy's children,

instead of bringing them together as one?

This year I am making a choice.

I will put myself in this tradition that is not reformed.

(Is Calvin sitting up in his tomb?)

I am choosing to receive and give an ashen cross

that will be visible to all who have eyes to see.

I am choosing to wear it as a way to be bold in proclaiming that

I am going on an intentional journey for the next forty days.

(Thank God for Sundays!)

I am not travelling alone.

There is a large community of broken-hearted who make this trek.

The One who leads us can be trusted.

This Jesus, whom we follow, is one of us, yet, so much more.

The discipline of the journey encourages growth of faith.

The truth of the matter is

that the cross of ash wears off eventually.

This means that my actions,

my words,

the language of my body,

the outpouring of my heart,

become the message of my choice.

A request of you –

Keep all in the Light who choose to make this journey. So let it be!

~ The Rev. Margee Iddings

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The Rev. Margee Iddings lives in Calvary's neighborhood, is retired and currently serves as Parish Associate at Church of the Pilgrims.

# Grace Notes



During prayer time in worship on Sundays at Calvary, I often find my gaze lingering on the stained glass window high over the altar. The image there, of Christ kneeling with hands folded and eyes closed, illustrates prayerful meditation: something I've come to find increasingly important in my spiritual life. As a first-time new parent, it's so tempting to run around, hastily checking things off my list. Maybe there's a part of me that enjoys hustling so busily through days and weeks with "no time to spare". Maybe it's nice to kid myself that I'm winning the race against time. Often, though, this feeling of achievement sours in the absence of reflective quiet time spent with God.

A couple of weeks ago, I sat down on the edge of the bed at the end of the day with my head just spinning. I was feeling out of sorts, chewing over a petty grievance with a friend; plus, everything I'd started to do that day seemed to have fallen flat. (Go figure: I hadn't prayed at all that day.) After a spell of staring at the wall, fuming, my eyes fell on the little wooden cross on my bedside table. A thought flashed across my mind, as clearly as if it had been broadcast on a teleprompter: "My Peace I give to you; My Peace I leave with you..." Having since looked it up, I now know that this verse is from John 14:27. Sitting with and considering these words, I could feel them go to my heart like a soothing balm. Soon, the little black cloud that had settled itself over my day dissipated, and I slept.

It's sometimes hard to keep my meditations from spiraling into ruminations about this petty grievance or that stalled project. Yet when I let God be at the center of my thought, even for a moment – even by accident! – only then do I feel that wonderful sense of Peace. Additionally, prayerful meditation is great for fostering a better sense of self-awareness, in corporate as well as individual life. Pastor Michelle recently told me that Calvary's Session begins each of its meetings with Bible study and prayers. This

makes perfect sense to me. Such a commitment to Godly contemplation must bring with it an increased understanding of who we are as a church, where we're headed and how to get us there – as demonstrated in the latest Annual Report and Annual Congregational Meeting. Much as I've found in my personal life, prayerful reflection shines a light on things that need work, as well as making us more conscious and more thankful for the many, many things that are already so good. Thank you, Calvary, and Peace be with you! ~ *Amber Leima*

## Joining the Church Triumphant

**Floyd Robertson** joined The Church Triumphant on May 1, 2014. He was the last surviving Charter Member who began the idea of Calvary church and was a signer of our original charter on May 2, 1948. In 1960 Floyd helped establish another church community, the ongoing Cornerstone Church in Annandale which, like Calvary, began in his home. After leaving the Navy, Floyd worked for 20 years at the National Association of Evangelicals leading The Chaplains Commission for all branches of the military, and established the Christian Military Fellowship.

Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Nathan (Nate) and Lainy Robertson, 22218 NE 116th Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682-9780.

**Sandy Snyder** went to The Church Triumphant on December 25, 2014. She joined Calvary Presbyterian church in December 1953, and taught Sunday school for 15 years at various grade levels. Sandy enjoyed faith, fellowship, outreach and service opportunities at Calvary and was an active, supporting member of the church until her call to glory.

Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Christine Snyder Huff, 5755 Benford Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169-2533.





## Christmas 2014

Lessons & Carols Service  
&  
Caroling on Our Corner





## Kitchen Renovation — Before



A project of this magnitude doesn't "just happen." Many, many thanks to Sharon and Angus MacInnes and Elsie Plues for spearheading this renovation. Margaret Yeboah, Barbara Allen, Stuart Shippey and Alice Miller helped with ideas and choices of materials and colors. We will be reaping the rewards of their dedication, organization and perseverance for decades to come.



## Kitchen Renovation — After



## People, Purpose, Passion: Discipleship at Calvary

**Sermon Talk Back** meets from 11:30-12:00 in the parlor. Grab your coffee and snack and join us as we share how God spoke to us in the sermon and service today!

Please join us for **prayer** at 9:30 each Sunday in the library, as we prepare our hearts and pray for the worship and life of Calvary and the world.

**Tuesday Night Bible Study** is at 7 p.m. at the home of Tony and LeAnn Pittman (6647 South Kings Hwy., Alexandria 22306). Is the Bible a myth? Why does God allow suffering? How can you say there is only one way to God? What about Hell? *The Reason for God: Conversations on Faith and Life* is a 6-week video-based series that addresses these questions and more. All are welcome. Please join us!

**Life Transformation Groups** for men and women are forming. These intentional discipleship groups of 3-5 people meet for 7 weeks, one hour per week, at various times and locations. Please see Angus MacInnes or John Kerr for information on men's groups or Pastor Michelle for information on women's groups.



**Mark Your  
Calendars!**

## Holy Week Schedule

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**  
April 3 ~ 7:30pm

**Easter Sunday Worship  
with Communion**  
April 5 ~ 10:00am  
followed by a  
**Community Easter Egg Hunt**

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