



A Peek in the Window

Your Weekly E-mail Update from
Calvary Episcopal Church



August 11, 2012

Have You Marked Your Calendar? Our Fantastic Annual Church Picnic Is Sunday Morning, September 9



The Annual Church Picnic is just 4 weeks away. Please keep Sunday, September 9, free and clear for the bestest time ever. We will have a wheel barrow and a three-legged race. We will also have a pole sitting competition. Don't store those lawn chairs in the garage, just yet!

2012 CALVARY DIRECTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE

Please pick up your personal copy of the 2012 Parish Directory in Memorial Hall.



SERVING THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

LEV: Eileen Mueller

Position	8:00 AM Service	9:30 AM Service
LEM	Mary Ann Gee	Christa Orum Keller
Acolyte	John Gee	Charles Boerner
Reader	Joyce Hoelscher	Pat Coleman
Usher	Scott Hanson	Tom Walsh
Greeter	Sharon Nemedi	Caroline Graafland & Melanie Bannister
Coffee Hour	Scott & Jamie Hanson	

The Vestry meets this Monday, August 13, at 7 p.m.

SUMMER FEAST IS NEXT WEEK!

Our final Summer Feast this year will be hosted by Scott and Jamie Hanson on August 18. Sign-up is outside of the Elijah room.





Please consider signing up to host Coffee Hour and Fellowship following the 9:30 Service. Instructions on how to host are available with the sign-up sheet on the refrigerator in the Parish Kitchen. It isn't that hard, and is actually, quite fun. To enjoy this opportunity for fellowship, please sign-up today. Thanks.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study begins on September 12 at 10:15 a.m. The group will not meet on the 19th due to Fr. Mike's travel schedule and will resume on the 26th. The regular schedule for Wednesday Bible Study is the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th (if on the calendar) Wednesday of each month. It does not meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Please see Fr. Mike for more details.

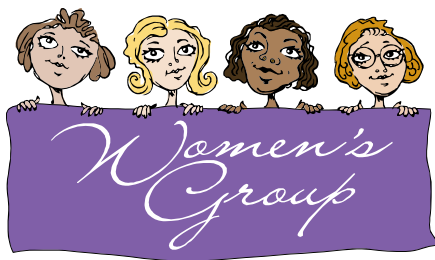


SUNDAY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School will resume on September 16 with the gathering at 10:00 a.m. Questions should be directed to Fr. Mike.

Sunday Bible Study will commence on September 23 at 9:15 a.m. between the two services. It meets every Sunday at that time. Please see Joyce Hoelscher for more information.

All adults are welcome and encouraged to participate in either one of these two opportunities to grow your understanding of the Bible.



The Women's Study Group will meet this Monday, August 13, at 7:00 p.m. to continue their discussion of the book "Acedia and Me." Please read through page 152. Even though we are well into the book, new members are welcome at anytime to join our discussions.

CALVARY CARES GIFT SHOP

Please go to the Calvary Cares Gift Shop located in the Church Office to purchase framed prints of the church, Calvary note cards, and Episcopal Crosses/Pendants. All proceeds benefit our Outreach Program.



There will be a Parish Quarterly Financial Review Meeting for the Second Quarter of 2012 on Sunday, August 19, between the 8:00 a.m. & 9:15 a.m. services.

Calvary Episcopal Church is a small congregation church that relies on volunteers. The landscape looks great not because of a professional landscaper but because of the many “green thumbs” in the church. This past summer the church was cleaned several times by volunteers. These examples of volunteerism are not on any schedule, but a volunteer organizes the activity and people show up to help.



Sunday's is a time for volunteers that are scheduled and we need more help. Earlier this summer, I requested help for the late service ushers indicating that if there were not anymore volunteers, then there would be a single usher at the service in the fall/winter. During the summer, I did not receive any indication of new volunteers. Being an usher requires a commitment to spend an extra 15 minutes before and after the church service. There are guidelines posted on the bulletin board which are simple to follow or just notice what the ushers do during the service. For volunteers with families, there are white ropes under the glass shelf in the back of the church in which a pew can be roped off to secure seating. (The ropes have been under the glass since my son's were active in the church.)

I will start working on the fall/winter schedule before the Labor Day and I would be greatly appreciated to have more volunteers from the late service to assist in being an usher. To add to the volunteer list, please contact the office or Fr. Mike.

Submitted by,
Jack McCabe

back to
School



School resumes in local districts
over the next few weeks. Please
watch for kids & drive carefully!

COLLECTIONS FOR AUGUST

Every third Sunday of the month, we hold a collection for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. This is a special fund, managed by the Rector, to assist those who are in immediate need for assistance. This is accomplished through an announced "Open Plate Collection." An Open Plate Collection is defined as money placed in the Collection Plate anonymously or given by a Parishioner in a special envelope directed to the Rector's Fund. Special Envelopes are available in the back of the church to indicate where you wish your gift to be directed. You may also indicate your preferences on your regular weekly envelopes by including a note. Because a gift to the Discretionary Fund is tax deductible, some parishioners prefer to have these type of gifts included on their Giving Statement.



On the fourth Sunday of each month, we hold a special Red Bowl Collection for a charity identified by our Outreach Ministry. Each year, the generous parishioners of Calvary provide thousands of dollars to local charities like the Interfaith Food Pantry, Valley Sheltered Workshop and the Salvation Army. Again, special envelopes may be used to include this giving on your Financial Statement for tax purposes.

SPECIAL GIVING

Any financial gifts made to Calvary, whether they are your annual pledge, memorials made in someone's name, Red Bowl, clothes or personal items made to us for HESED House, Capital Campaign or through estate planning are personal decisions and usually involves significant trade-offs by the giver. The Vestry, Rector and Staff are very mindful of this and are not only deeply appreciative but try always to be responsible stewards of Calvary's resources. Special gifts may be unrestricted (that is, their use would be determined by the Vestry) or restricted/directed, meaning the giver provides instructions on how the gift may be used. Directed giving can be as simple as throwing two dollars into the coffee basket at coffee hour or providing a stock gift to be used for a capital improvement project to make our washrooms ADA Compliant. In either case, you can be assured your instructions will be followed.

Non-cash gifts are generally handled in one of two ways. If you purchase a computer for the office as a gift, all you would need to do is provide a receipt to have the dollar value included on your Giving Statement. If you provide merchandise for PADS and the dollar value cannot be readily ascertained, a receipt (similar to those provided by Goodwill) is provided for you to fill in and then determine the value as allowed by the IRS when you complete your taxes. These receipts are available in the Church Office.

If you should ever have any questions, please consult either of the two Wardens or the Treasurer and they would be happy to assist you.

'Kids 4 Peace' brings Muslims, Jews and Christians to Camp Allen

By Luke Blount | July 23, 2012

[Diocese of Texas] Over the past decade, countless conventions, meetings and summits have been held in search of a long-lasting peace between faith communities in Israel and Palestine, but for the children who take part in Kids 4 Peace, the solution seems simple because they experience it every day.

Kids 4 Peace is a interfaith program developed through the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and St. George's College in Jerusalem that brings together Christian, Jewish and Muslim children from the Holy Land and the United States to take part in summer camps. The first camp took place in 2002 at Camp Allen, and 10 years later, Kids 4 Peace returned to the Diocese of Texas to inaugurate an annual gathering for interfaith education. Typically, 12 children, four of each faith, come together from Jerusalem along with 12 from the United States. They live, play, work and worship together for two weeks while exploring their similarities and differences. Currently, Kids 4 Peace has five two-week summer camps across the United States.

"Ten years ago we had this dream of a summer camp where children would have the chance to meet each other face-to-face, cross the lines of conflict, learn about each other's lives and religions and lay the groundwork for a better future," said the Rev. Josh Thomas, executive director.

Looking at the group at Camp Allen in July, it was hard to tell which kids came from which country or religion. They liked the same games, wore the same clothes and spoke at least some English. During dinner one evening, they all sang along to a pop song from the British/Irish band, One Direction, belting out the signature line "You don't know you're beautiful" in unison. "We are all friends," said 12-year-old Eliya, a Jew from Jerusalem. "Jews, Christians, Muslims. That's how it is supposed to be, so it's good."

The children spent the week observing the practices of other faiths including Jewish Shabbat prayers, Muslim prayers and an Episcopal Eucharist. After each service, they asked and answered questions to learn more about the three faiths. Building friendships and seeking common ground came easily for the Kids 4 Peace throughout the week. They conquered physical challenges as well as emotional ones. One of the first activities they participated in together was Camp Allen's challenge course and giant swing. The children had to work together, encourage and help each other to climb obstacles and ride a zip line more than 50 yards.

"It's fun because I'm not thinking, 'They are not from my religion,'" said Eyal,

continued on next page

another 12-year-old Jew from Jerusalem. "I don't think like that. Crossing cultural barriers is the central theme of the Kids 4 Peace camp, and Thomas sees a uniting principle that all three faiths can rally around. "Kids 4 Peace's bottom line message is that all the children of Abraham can live together in peace," Thomas said. "Peace and being a peacemaker is a priority and an imperative of each religious tradition on its own as well as something that is strengthened by our time together."

Throughout the week, the children displayed endless curiosity and love for each other. If one of them upset another, they were quick to forgive and forget. If another needed encouragement, they would gather together to cheer each other on. The ease with which they achieved a common understanding and the joy they expressed at every moment of the day leads one to wonder if these children could teach adults. "Adults could learn that maybe not everyone from a certain place or group is bad," said 12-year-old Serifat, a Muslim from Houston. "We are just like everybody else." "A lot of adults are not nice," Eliya said. "I would just tell them not to behave like that because it's not nice, and if we keep doing that, the world will never have peace."

"If you are fighting because of different religions, it's not a good example for anything," Eyal said. "It's just not the right thing to do." The simplicity of their message may seem trite when compared with the complexity of the conflict in Israel and Palestine, but perhaps they are on to something. "I often say the Kids 4 Peace is the closest thing I have experienced to a glimpse at the reign of God," Thomas said. "The ease at which they come together and form relationships is so natural that it offers a glimpse into human possibility of what we are here on this earth for. It feels as if they have been waiting their whole lives for this chance to be together."

Thomas thinks that peacefulness is the natural state of these children, and if they can harness it at a young age, they can carry it into adulthood with a deeper understanding of what it means to be different, yet so similar. Kids 4 Peace conducts a continuation program in Jerusalem for 13- to 14-year-olds as well as a new leadership program for older teenagers to learn peace building skills as they transition to adulthood. "It is possible to love your enemies," Thomas said. "It really is possible to cross beyond those things that divide people and learn about one another. We can value each other's dignity and worth while respecting differences."

Visit the Kids 4 Peace website to learn more about the camps.

— *Luke Blount is a staff writer and communications specialist for the Diocese of Texas.*

CALVARY CONTACTS

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Our Summer Worship Schedule:

Sunday – Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday – Holy Eucharist – 7 a.m.

Wednesday – Holy Eucharist w/Healing Rite – 9:30 a.m.

Thursday – Holy Eucharist w/Healing Rite – 5:45 p.m.
Father Mike also celebrates a Eucharist at the Holmstad each Thursday at 1 p.m.

Send items for our monthly Church Newsletter, *Calvary Windows*,
and its weekly update, *A Peek in the Window*, to:

calvarywindows@gmail.com

