

The Seeker for September 2015

Vocation: What's Your New Thing?

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

Fall is upon us, and though it has been a while since my own school days, there is always something about this time of year that feels like a new beginning: a chance to clean the slate and start afresh. As our young ones are preparing to go back to school in a few days, it is an ideal time for us all to discover the new thing that God is doing in and through each one of us.

Though I'm still fairly new at Caldwell, I know well that this a beloved community. We joyfully gather for worship each Sunday, eager to hear a word of hope and possibility beyond the ordinary realm of hearing. We gather to think about what it means to live in God's world and to discern ways we each can be part of God's work in the world. The church is uniquely created for such beloved community: it is a sign of God's grace at work. Grace is a gift, and as with any gift, there comes responsibility. What is our personal response to God's love, new every morning? When we experience the holy in the ordinary, the mystery of our precious gift of life what is God asking of us in return?

It's a secret joy, really, but one shared freely, that it is in engaging the world beyond ourselves that our own life is made whole. This can happen in many different ways, and here at Caldwell, we are especially blessed with opportunities to explore our own vocational calling.

So this Fall, as our children return for Rally Day on September 13th to begin a new Sunday School Year, we are adding another layer to the Fall kickoff. At Coffee Hour that morning, you are invited to a special Volunteer Fair in the Coffee Room, to have a look around at the many ways you can jump in and get involved: perhaps mission is your passion, or adult education, or one of the fundraising traditions here; perhaps you are looking to delve into a book study, or you are handy with hammers and tools, or you'd love to sing in the choir, or call or visit someone who is sick. Perhaps you'd like to cook a meal for someone recovering from surgery, or help in the Food Pantry, or teach a Sunday school class. Perhaps you've been volunteering in the same way for a long time and you'd like to try something new.

There was once a time when vocation referred to clergy only, and it meant a retreat from the world to join a monastic way of life. But our Reformed tradition teaches otherwise: that all of us have a calling; a job to do; that God calls us to love the world and to live into it boldly, and give what we can for the life of the community. The exciting thing is discovering how God works in us in new ways with each new season of life.

I invite you to prayerfully consider the new thing God is doing in you. Come to church on Sept 13th, ready to share it with the beloved community of Caldwell, to the blessing of many, and for the life of the world.

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Faithfully,

Ali

Preschool News

Dear Friends of the Preschool,

What a great summer. I have been very busy with Pep and Youth Commission this year, which gave me more time with some of the students from this year. I look forward to being done so I can do some more planning for the School year.

Our Open House is planned for Thurs. Sept 10th. The week before we start school. I have been in contact with several families this summer and we are at full capacity for our classrooms. We are working out some details to know what steps we should take if we go over the numbers we have set for each classroom

In September we will give you the final counts for each class. It is exciting to know that the word is spreading and that people want their children in our preschool. It is a joy to offer them so much more than just kindergarten preparation. We are also giving them everything they need for life and Godliness as we teach the Bible and God's love each day.

Please continue to pray that we will reach each child where they are and help them become the best that they can be.

Serving with you,
Chris Sallstrom



Deacon's Corner

We hope everyone had a great summer filled with laughter, love, family and friends. The Deacon's are looking ahead to our autumn activities. The annual Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled for October with the sale dates being Thursday October 15, Friday the 16th, and the bag sale on Saturday the 17th. We can always use help with setup the week leading up to the sale. Please start collecting your gently used clothing, and household items. This is a huge fundraiser for our church so plan to come and lend a hand.

The food pantry didn't take a summer vacation in fact, we're busier than ever. The need for food is always on the minds of the hungry. Our wonderful friendly staff served 118 people in June and 131 in July. August numbers look to be along the same lines. The pantry is open the second and fourth Friday each month. We welcome donations of non-perishable food as well as personal care items.

God has truly blessed us all.

See you in church!

Fellowship and Hospitality

Committee Members: Emilia Bernd, Helene Horn, Ann Kohland, Tom Jenne, Joni Steiner, Sue Moore, and Jessica King (chairperson).

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am in the middle room at Caldwell Church. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of this committee to join us. Perhaps you would just like to help at some of the events we sponsor. If that is your choice please contact one of our committee members.



Our committee arranges for Coffee hour hosts. Please check the bulletin board in the coffee room to see when your name appears. If you find the date you have been assigned is not good for you, we ask that you find someone to take your place. It is possible to just switch dates with someone else who is listed with their permission.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHANGE ON THE CHART AND NOTIFY TOM JENNE OF YOUR ACTION. (Tom's-cell-#716-870-0013).

We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as Birthday Sunday for all people who have birthdays in the current month. A cake is provided which will be found in the refrigerator in the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee, or if you prefer you may add other snacks.

September Coffee Hour Hosts

06 Bunalski Family

13 Nicols Family

20 Amrock Family

27 Mary Beth Tenne & Sarah King

Caldwell History Night:

September 23rd, 5-7:30 p.m. Please join us for a pot-luck dinner and presentation by Rev. Skip Bush, Pastor of Caldwell from 1972-1981, who will lead us through the long and fascinating history of Caldwell Church in Lake George.

Kids Corner:

Welcome back to School. We hope all had a wonderful summer. Looking forward to hearing all about the summer trips and vacations had by all.

We had a wonderful turn out for **Vacation Bible School (Everest)**. (35-45 kids attended daily 9am to noon, the week of August 10-14th). The Church turned into Mount Everest, climbing, survival camp. It was a fun packed week of games, crafts, music, and food.

Highlights: *We learned through scripture and stories how to conquer challenges with God's Mighty Power.*

**God has the Power to Provide, Comfort, Heals, Forgives, and promises
to love us forever and give us eternal life. "Hold ON"!!
Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. John 3:15.**

Thanks to all that helped with VBS especially **Sarah King**. She spearheaded VBS and was instrumental in getting volunteers, teachers, and seeing that everything ran smoothly on a daily basis! Over 15 local teens and adults from Caldwell, Sacred Heart and Lake George and Queensbury communities were here to assist. Words cannot express our thanks to all who helped make this event the success that it was. From decorating the sanctuary, to bringing in ice pops for snack, to constructing a shelter box frame for the kids to build as they brought in their mission donations.

Special thanks to Ali and Jeb Trowbridge and "Sherpa Janice" who rallied us each morning with sits, songs and fun experiments to bring the word of God to Life."

Our Mission project for the week of VBS and through the upcoming Sunday school year will be Shelter box Nepal after two devastating earthquakes. We got a wonderful head start at VBS and thank all who gave.

The children all left with a nice survival bag packed full of things needed if life brings you to times of trouble. Scripture to remind them they are not alone, a para cord bracelet with compass, pillows, trails mix, pictures, and prayer flags.

The overall theme to the week was God is always there with the tool necessary to help us through whatever life brings. We should look to him for guidance and remember he is always there for us.

RALLY DAY - Sunday classes begin on September 13th

Don't miss the first day back to Sunday school! We will be having a group activity and ice cream party.

Sarah King will lead the elementary and Tom Jenne will lead the Jr/Sr high school classes the first 6 weeks. Note that there is a new exciting curriculum for the Jr/Sr class. We are seeking parent volunteers to help with the Jr./Sr. high classes. Please contact Dana Power if interested.

Welcome back!! Hope to see you in Sunday school class!!

Judy, Dana, Laura



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MOW THE GRASS.

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the sheet in the coffee room or call Laura at #368-0540.
Sign up is by week for the following Sunday.

Fall classic Golf Tournament and Steak Bake to benefit the North Country Ministry

September 20th at Cronin's Golf Resort, Warrensburg, NY 12855

Tee off at 1:00 pm

Cost: \$95 if paid by 9/10

*Includes: Golf, Cart, Prizes, Lunch, Beverages, Steak Bake,
Gifts, Silent Auction*

*Send check, name, and address to: NCM Golf Tournament
P.O. Box 111, North Creek, NY 12853*

Caldwell Children's Choir to start this Fall!

Leslie Clemens will meet with any children who want to participate for 10 minutes at the beginning of Sunday School each week in the Middle Room. She will start the choir on Sept. 20th.

All are welcome!



September Mission of the Month :

Our mission of the month is to create an emergency fund for the school nurse at both the Lake George elementary, and the high school. There are several families in this school district who come to the nurse seeking assistance with getting the items they need for the school year.

Items we are collecting are backpacks, eye glasses, coats, underwear, hats, socks, boots, gloves, pencils, calculators, binders, and related school items. We are also collecting money to give the emergency fund for juice, lunches, prescriptions and more.

YOUTH CONNECTION Fall Kick-Off:

September 20th: Sixth Graders and younger are welcome to join Pastor Ali in the Youth Lounge during Coffee Hour for our time together! We begin immediately following worship and end at 11:45.

October 4th: 7th Graders and Up are welcome to join Pastor Ali in the Youth Lounge during Coffee Hour for our time together! We begin immediately following worship and end at 11:45.

Fall Ecumenical Book Study:

Beginning Wednesday, September 23rd, from 1-2 p.m. in the Middle Room, please join us for our Fall book study of *The Prodigal God*, by Timothy Keller. Books are available for purchase in the Church Office beginning September 8th for \$10. Please note: for anyone wanting to share in lunchtime fellowship, you are welcome to arrive at 12:30 p.m. with a bag lunch. Our book study will begin promptly at 1 p.m.! Bring a friend and come whenever you can. All are always welcome!



Pastor Ali would like to know everyone's month and date of birth. You do not have to give her the year. You can place a slip in the offering plate, her mailbox, or email it to secretary@caldwellpres.org.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!! It is time to start sorting and saving your unwanted items for our October Rummage Sale, Oct. 15, 16, & 17th.

You can start bringing your items to the church on Sunday, October 11th. We also need volunteers to set up and help with the sale. So mark your calendars!

September 2015

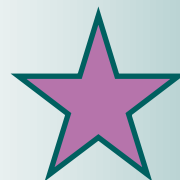
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Mission Comm. Meeting 2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Fellowship & Hosp. Mtg. 10:30 Ch. Ed. Mtg.	9 Deacons Mtg. 6:30	10 Preschool Open House 6-7:30	11 Food Pantry 9:30-12	12
13 Sunday School Rally	14 1st Day of Preschool	15 Session Mtg. 7	16	17	18	19
20 Youth Group for 6th grade and under at 11:45	21	22	23 Pot Luck Supper with Skip Bush speaking on the history of Caldwell 5:30 Bible Study 1-2	24	25 Food Pantry 9:30-12	26
27 Youth Group for 7th grade and up 11:45	28	29	30 Bible Study 1-2			

Happy Birthday

September

Bobbie Hoffman
Carol Kirkwood
Drew Jackson
Emily Fuller
Judd Brynes
Leah Anne Monroe
Lauren Quigan
Judy Guilford

Marjorie Mannix
Mark Mannix
Norman Duell
Rachel Hunsicker
Rosemarie Earl
Sara Mannix
Stan Rummel
Ted Guilford



Indian River Nursing Home – Pat Eaglestone
Westmount Health Facility– Mary Harbourne
Fort Hudson— Charles Sandora

September News from the Haiti Mission School

It's time for school again. Schools in Haiti are scheduled to open September 7. This will be the tenth year for the Haiti Mission School. All the teachers will be returning and we are looking forward to another good year. Since this is our tenth year, we would like to take a few moments here to reflect on progress that has been made.

The first thing, of course, is that three classes have graduated. Of these classes, we have been able to provide scholarship aid for 18 students who have gone on to the nearby secondary school. Even more important is that by the time the students have completed the third grade, they can read books, do basic arithmetic, have a basic knowledge of science, including such even more basic things such as personal hygiene.

We are also pleased that since the earthquake in 2010, we have been able to provide a hot meal each school day for students and teachers. We worked with the Haitians to build a cistern and to provide water purification so that clean drinking water is available at the school. For the past three years we have been able to give all third grade students bibles in their creole language—a book that for many will be the first book in their homes.

A by product of all this is that our eight employees (six teachers and two cooks) receive salaries that while not great by our standards, are considerably above the Haitian national income averages. Furthermore, a number of our students and parents are also attending the church at Labastille that has provided space for the school.

Finally it is true that little of this could be done without God's blessing and the backing of many churches and individuals who have provided much prayer and financial support over the years. For this we give thanks.

Now on to the coming year... We hope to continue our discussions with the Haitian Education Department about working more closely together, particularly concerning teacher salaries. However this will have to wait until after the upcoming Presidential elections in Haiti. These are "scheduled" for October 25. I say "scheduled", because like many things in Haiti, they are subject to change. Also, for those of us who think that the number of people running for President in the U.S is a lot, there are currently **56 candidates** running for the office in Haiti.

Outgoing President Michael Martelli, who can't run for a second consecutive term, had a goal of to providing free primary education for all Haitian children. We have been pleased to join him in this important objective. We certainly hope the new President will continue this policy and that the man we are working with in the education department will be retained after the election. All of this remains to be seen in a country where things can often change in a flash.

Our Board of Directors will have met by the time you are receiving this newsletter. There should be more information by the time the next newsletter comes out. Meanwhile, we thank you for your continued prayers for the students, teachers, parents and all the others who are involved with the Haiti Mission School.



The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845

All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!

Contact Information:

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Pastor's Email—ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org