

THE SEEKER FOR FEBRUARY 2016

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Caldwell Family,

I write to you after quite a difficult period in our church family. The tragic loss of Jacksene Corriveau has grieved us all, and we continue to come to terms with the trauma and loss. We had a previously scheduled Wholeness and Healing Service the day after news of Jacksene's death, and it was a sacred service where we came together on bended knee in prayer to God for strength, courage, and peace only God can give. The funeral service for Jacksene was held on Monday, January 18th, and the church was packed to overflowing with family, friends, loved ones, teachers and leaders in the Warrensburg school community, and our own worshipping community.

Later in this Seeker you will find a letter from the Corriveaus as well as Lindsay Corriveau's eulogy she offered at the funeral. For those of you who were out of town or were not able to be here on January 18th, I know and trust you will love every word of her beautiful tribute to Jacksene.

As we continue to come to terms with the tragic loss of Jacksene, please be reminded that the church is here to support you. Please feel free to call or email me if you feel you need further support and resources for you or your family. My phone is 518-668-2613 and my direct email is ali@caldwellpres.org.

I also want to mention that if you would like to make a donation to the Jacksene Corriveau memorial fund, please send your check to Caldwell Presbyterian Church where the Corriveaus, in time, will designate a fitting memorial to honor Jacksene's life.

In light of such unspeakable loss, it was by God's grace that church life pressed onward in January, and we installed our new officers to service in the church as ruling elders and deacons. It was a particularly moving service of laying on of hands and charge to ministry in this place and for this time. Thanks to all who accepted the call to serve: our ruling elders Judy Guilford, Jessica King, Mark Mannix, and Laura Moody, and our deacons Linda Carr, Bob Gunther, and Margy Mannix. And a very special expression of gratitude to Linda Nicols who has "rolled off" after serving as elder and chair of the Mission Committee. Bless you all for your faithful service to the church. And a very special thanks to the work of the 2015 Nominating Committee for their efforts in discernment: Co-Chairs Karen Azer and Linda Nicols, Kim Cornelius, Nancy Earl, and Darlene Gunther.

On January 24th we held the Annual Meeting where reports were offered describing the important ministries of service, nurturing families and children in our Preschool, and caring for those in need both in our community and far away. Caldwell continues to be a church of joyous and faithful worship and vital ministry, all by God's grace and your generous participation, faithful presence, and leadership. I believe we can grow even stronger, and I've included a piece about Membership for your consideration later in this Seeker.

In these days it feels very much like we are bound even more tightly together by the Spirit's tether as we live into the reality of this New Year. We uphold one another day by day, even as we are being upheld, now and forever, in the hollow of God's hand.

Faithfully,

Ali

Being the Church: Why Membership?

Dear Caldwell Church Family,

I want to share with you my experience with membership in the church. In the early 90's as a newly minted college graduate, I lived and worked in NYC. I attended Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, which was my family's church for 3 generations. I loved going to church. It was part of my weekend routine, and often during the week, I would sneak my lunch into the sanctuary and sit in the holy silence of the pews as the muffled sounds of the busy city carried on outside. I participated in some church events, made some friends, and thought of my faith life as quite fulfilling during those years.

I left NYC to serve in the US Peace Corps in Mali, Africa, for 2 ½ years, and when I returned, I came back to NYC, where I enrolled as a student at Union Theological Seminary. I resumed my attendance at Fifth Avenue Church. I loved walking into that magnificent church, greeting my old friends, the wonderful ushers, and the pastors. I would climb the stairs to the balcony and find a seat where I'd sit in peace to worship, sing, pray, and listen. I'd attend coffee hour and enjoy fellowship. It was the best part of my week. Throughout these years, I was not a member. No one ever asked me to become a member. I was welcome to participate fully in the life of that church just as I was.

It wasn't until my second year in Seminary when I began to sense the call to serve the church as Minister of Word and Sacrament, that I realized I needed a sponsor church. Of course Fifth Avenue Presbyterian was "my church," and it wasn't long before I met with the pastor and expressed my desire to pursue ordination. I asked if Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church would be willing to support me in the three- year ordination process. The answer was "yes," but there was one small detail to attend to first: *I needed to become a member!*

I'm telling you this story because in my own life, the idea of formalizing my relationship to the institution I loved and served was not in the forefront on my mind. It seemed like a technicality that had little relevance to my engagement in the life of the congregation. Membership was of little significance to me, that is, *until I began to actively explore my walk with God.*

The church we serve is God's own; we are the body of Christ. It is an institution unlike any other: we gather in God's name, call upon the Holy Spirit to be our guide, and work together in full participation to make real the mission of Jesus in our community, our family lives, and our personal life.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is comprised of a representative form of government. People are elected by the congregation to serve in the various forms of ministry: in mission, education, compassion, healing, fellowship, and worship. Individuals serve a term in an ordained position, and then "roll off," that is, "rest," so that others can take a turn. This representative form of government is designed so that leadership is continually renewed and refreshed, and the church is poised and ready to discern God's will for each era.

Here is where Caldwell has great potential, I believe, and where we need to grow. In the spirit of this wonderful Presbyterian tradition of representative form of leadership, and in order to fully engage in the present ministry and live into the great potential God has in store for us, we need new people to take a turn serving the church. We need new leaders.

Since I've come to Caldwell, I've come to know many of you who serve this church with devotion and faithfulness. I've also noticed that many of the same people do the work of the committees year after year. This is where we need to grow as an organization. Only members can be elected to serve as a deacon or a ruling elder or a teaching elder. In order to support the functioning of this church and its present and future vitality, membership is a necessary first step.

So why, you may ask me, why should I consider becoming a member? I love Caldwell, I volunteer my time, I participate in the life and worship, I pledge, my friends are here, I provide outreach and care when people in this community are in need. I don't want to serve on a committee nor do I have time to come to meetings. Why membership? What's in it for me?

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can only answer that question by referencing my personal experience again. When I formalized my commitment and became a member of the church, I grew. I realized for the first time that I was an integral part of something, the body of Christ, and that I was necessary to God's work in the world. By *not* being a member, I was hindering the potential for service that God had in store for me. With membership, my own faith life deepened, and my spiritual journey found new purpose. It was the beginning of a brand new chapter in my walk of faith that has passed through many seasons already, where my commitment has ebbed and flowed based on the season of my life. There are seasons when we have lots of time and energy to give, and other seasons where it is less so, but the first step is membership, to ensure the longevity of the ministry we so love. In taking the step toward membership, the Holy Spirit, at work in us all, is able to accomplish far more than we could ever ask for or imagine.

I am asking you to prayerfully consider membership at Caldwell. Join me and some of our current officers on Sunday, February 28, from 11:30-12:30, to explore the opportunities to get involved at Caldwell, to explore your walk with God, and to grow.

Faithfully,

Ali



Fellowship and Hospitality

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

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30am 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 as you see fit. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee etc.

**Coffee Hour Hosts:****February**

7 Jenne Family
14 Tom & Bev Roadch
21 Ted & Judy Guilford
31 Janie & George Green

March

6 Mannix Family
13 Earl Family
20 Cornelius Family
27 Nicol Family

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|---|--------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Caldwell Presbyterian Church February 2016 | | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 Christian Ed. Mtg. 5:30 at Panera | 3 Mission Committee Mtg. 1:30 | 4 Choir 7:00 | 5 | 6 L.G. Music Festival Concert 7:00 |
| 7 Music Festival Concert 3:00/ Youth Mtg. in lounge after worship. | 8 | 9 | 10 Deacon's Mtg. 6:30 | 11 Choir 7:00 | 12 Food Pantry 9:30-12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Session Meeting 5:30 | 17 | 18 Choir 7:00 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Choir 7:00 | 26 Food Pantry 9:30-12 | 27 |
| 28 New Member Class 11:30 | 29 | | | | | |

Happy Birthday:**Alex Parrot****Jean Stanton****Tom Roach****Ann Kohland****Dana Whitcomb****Peg Edwards****Ben Nicols****Nicholas King****Olivia King**

The Lake George Winter Music Festival Concerts 2016

The schedule is coming together, and they are bringing something new for this winter season!
Don't miss out on the 1st Annual Winter Concert Series on

February 6th & 7th, 2015, here at Caldwell!

The Lake George Music Festival is known for bringing thrilling performances and world-class musicians to Lake George during the summer season. The festival is Lake George's first and only classical music festival and artist retreat for gifted young professionals and musicians. Offering free concerts and events including open rehearsals, live concerts, interactive workshops, outreach events and more - the Lake George Music Festival is perfect for music lovers of all ages!

This Annual Winter Concert Series, will be held on February 6th at 7:00 and 7th at 3:00. The concert series will feature musicians from The Yale School of Music, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. Both concerts will be held at Caldwell Presbyterian Church on 71 Montcalm Street in Lake George. The concerts are free and open to the public (there is a suggested \$10 donation). Free parking will also be available in the lot behind the church.



Help Needed for the Reception!!!

If you would like to help with the reception following both concerts,
there is a need for food items, and servers.
Please let Alex Parrot or Beth Corriveau know if you can help.

Thank you!

This was shared at Jacksene's Funeral

Jacksene James Baptiste Corriveau Remembrance, Aug. 10, 2000 – Jan. 12th, 2016

– by his sister, Lindsay Corriveau

Most of you knew my brother as a handsome, suave athlete with a million dollar smile. That's all well and good, but as his sister, I knew the truth. My brother came into this country from Haiti in June of 2009, with pink underpants, skinny arms, and an unyielding appetite that we would later come to realize would never be satiated. One of the first things we did as a family that summer was to take a trip to Maine. It was there that he discovered his love of boogey boarding, the ocean, and lobster. I mean it, he loved lobster.

My sisters and I would pass the time teaching him funny English phrases like, "I am fabulishious", and "pufferfish". He had such a cute little accent that we couldn't resist. And in all of that time, the only thing I learned to say in Creole was, "moi sesue" which meant "I am your sister," which I tried on the day he arrived, and to be honest, I have no idea if I was saying it right. But he did smile.

So through baseball games, wrestling, soccer matches, and every other sport imaginable, Jacksene grew up. And I'll tell you, the boy graced through that initial bout of puberty like a swan. I left for college and his voice was still higher than mine. Then I called home a month later and got this low "hello?" on the other line. My first thought was honestly, "Oh my word, my mother is having an affair!" --But the sisters and I kept him humble. We used to roll down the window of the car when dropping him off at school and shout out how handsome he was. It always embarrassed him, but I think he liked it. It didn't matter anyway, because Jacksene's confidence was strong, and I always admired that about him. Most of you knew about his excellent taste in bright, high knee'd socks which we tried countless times to convince him not to wear with the unmatched shorts he had on. He would respond by saying, "the girls like it." We said they didn't. We were wrong.

By and by, having Jacksene for a brother was easy. He was one of the politest, sweetest boys I've ever met. He never seemed to complain about having to help out at home. He didn't even complain when he moved into my bedroom as I left for college, even though the walls were pink and covered in fairies. He did eventually help me to paint it a seafoam green color. I picked it out because we both loved the ocean.

His friends knew him as an athlete, peacemaker, and charmer. His family knew him as a quiet boy with an incredibly complicated past. Despite his multitude of blessings, Jacksene did suffer a lot of pain. His migraines in particular, left him both physically and mentally incapacitated. In that time spent alone, he experienced things he didn't understand, and felt pain we couldn't see. He was never one for many words, and in the end, words failed him completely.

But despite the fact that Jacksene kept a lot to himself, we can give thanks for all of the things he did not, like his hugs, which were warm. His smile, which was utterly infectious. His time, which he'd give you whenever you asked. And his love, which moved quietly and held tightly.

He knew my mom would always buy his Siracha sauce on sale, and that my dad would be there to embarrass him at his games. He knew Dante would follow him without relent. He knew my sisters would tease his fashion, poke his abs, and always save him a piece of steak. And he knew that when I gave him a hug, he would not get to leave until he hugged me back.

---I'm not sure he knew, however, how much we'd miss him.

But that was Jacksene. A reckless, clumsy boy who ate like a horse and took camping trips in the snow. He was my film buddy with the million dollar grin. A boy with excellent taste in socks. And, if Jacksene could say anything to you now, he'd tell you how blessed he was to have such incredible people in his world for the short time he walked it. He'd thank you for the dedication and support. He may have even apologized for breaking so many hearts, as it was clear he never met to hurt anyone. He'd tell you that he loved you more than he could show. And, most importantly, he'd tell you that not ever, not once, did he forget just how much he was loved.

News from the Haiti Mission School for February 2016

HAITI ELECTIONS: In Haiti, as we reported last month, 54 candidates were running for president. In the election, no one got a majority. In such a situation, the Haitian Constitution calls for a runoff between the two top candidates. All would be well, except the person who received the second place (Jude Celestin) refused to accept the results, claiming massive voter fraud. He is refusing to enter the runoff. The current president has said that the runoff will happen whether or not Mr. Celestin chooses to run and the new president will take office on Feb 7 as scheduled. We (somewhat nervously) await the results. Our own elections seem boring by comparison.

FOOD PROGRAM:



Many Haitians were fleeing the Port au Prince area after the earthquake in 2010 and came to places like Labastille to join families living there. In many instances family food budgets were already tight and the new arrivals made it even more difficult. We decided then to begin providing meals to our students.

Much research shows that hungry children don't learn as well. By providing our students with a hot meal each school day, it made the family food budget stretch a little further, and at the same time it helped the education program at the school. A side benefit is that we give employment to two cooks. The investment in terms of dollars for the food program is relatively small (less than 35 cents per student meal per day) and the payoff is large. During the current school year (2015-16) we are averaging 130 meals per day.

The picture to the right is of our food program manager, Junior Eustache, his girls and his new wife Misty. They were married in December. Congratulations to Junior and Misty.

UPCOMING TRIPS. As we reported last month, two groups are scheduled to go to Haiti this year. The first is during President's week in February and the second is during the last week of April. Both groups are full at this point, but we will schedule others as demand indicates. If you are interested in joining a future trip, you can contact us at our email address haitimissionschool@gmail.com or our postal address: PO Box 445, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846.



THE HAITIAN CHRONICLES. Tom's book of poems about Haiti is available at Amazon.com for \$8.99. All profits from book sales go to support the 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—pastor@caldwellpres.org

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