

# THE DECEMBER SEEKER 2017

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Advent Season is here, which means we all suddenly have a lot to do, and to-do lists a mile long. In the midst of our retail endeavors, our many preparations of cards and gifts and special greetings at Christmas, instead of experiencing a renewal of spirit, we can more often experience stress and anxiety as we tarry about town.

I confess that I am a very impatient shopper. I try to eye the shortest line in the stores, often to find that it's the slowest, because of some transaction ahead of me that needs special attention, and it's all I can do to stick it out and endure, and resist my strong desire to bolt and head home, be with family and friends, or take a walk outside. But there are necessary errands to run and things to do this season. And so while on those lines, I try to remember that *waiting* is what Advent is all about!

Advent—the first season in the church year—begins on Sunday, December 3. It is a season that invites us to take time to reflect and to prepare our hearts and lives to receive the gift that comes to us in the stable. Just as the nights grow longer and creatures go into hibernation, we too yearn for a quiet stillness. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “visit.” The season is meant to get us ready, not so much for a present-opening party, but for a transformational celebration of the birth of Jesus.

As we await the coming of the Messiah, we remember that the season of Advent is about setting aside time to prepare ourselves to receive again the gift—God’s love revealed to us in the vulnerability of a child; that though the world was full of brokenness and strife, love came down at Christmas—a love that spoke of hope and promise and peace, revealing the wisdom of the ages and pointing to him, Christ the Lord, Emmanuel.

For the next four weeks during worship, we will observe the season through special readings from the Prophets, lighting of the Advent wreath, and hymns that speak of themes of waiting, preparation, and yearning for God. The Advent journey is a way of remembering the longing God’s people had for a Messiah, and every Advent season, I’m always reminded how much we ourselves relate to such a longing, especially in this year 2017. Remember the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”

I invite you to observe Advent in a new way this season. Intentionally cultivate time each day, whatever you can give, to be still, to sharpen your senses, to light a candle, and to fill your home with the season’s special scents and aromas on the stove—cinnamon and cloves, pine and orange, and to commune with God who renews us and accompanies us in all our journeys. May we all find a place among the shepherds, so that the one for whom we have waited, the one whose birth has changed the world, may be born in us.

Advent blessings to all.

Faithfully,

Ali



## Mission Report for 2017

On behalf of the Mission Committee I want to wish you all Merry Christmas and to thank you for everything that you have done and have given towards our ongoing efforts in the Mission Field. Our Church, thanks to you, has donated thousands of dollars to organizations that are helping God's children throughout the world.

Our Mission of the Month in December will be the Christmas Joy Offering. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you will be providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Here is the list of our Mission's from this year and the amounts donated

January ~ Code Blue \$900

February ~ Caldwell Food Pantry \$2308

March ~ Lend A Hand

April ~ One Great Hour of Sharing \$236

May ~ Himalayas with Love \$725

June ~ Rural Migrant Ministries \$1282

July ~ Red Cross Blood drive (20 Pints collected) \$631

August~ Helen Keller Institute \$613

September ~ Haiti Mission School \$815

October ~ International Rescue Committee

November ~ Lake George School Back Pack program

December ~ Christmas Joy



## BAY ROAD CHURCH HOPE FOR HAITI

On Wednesday, December 20th, at 7 pm at Lake George High School, Bay Road Church Hope for Haiti, with sponsorship from the Lake George High School Cabaret Club, will be hosting an evening of music, song and dance to raise funds for their mission in Leon, Haiti. Professional artists and aspiring students will be performing with storytelling about Hope for Haiti interspersed between acts. Bay Road Church Hope for Haiti is a multi-faceted mission with an emphasis on providing an education to children in rural Haiti. They have also provided food, shelter, clean water and basic first aid to the families of their students and others in the village of Leon.

Admission to the event is \$10 per person, and a bake sale will be held during intermission.

For more information, contact Janice Holding at  
[www.Facebook.com/bayroadchurchhopeforhaiti/](http://www.Facebook.com/bayroadchurchhopeforhaiti/)  
 or call Bay Road Church at 518-793-8541.

## Fellowship and Hospitality

Committee Members: Emilia Bernd, Helene Horn, Tom Jenne, Joni Steiner, 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.

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.

Please check the Coffee Hour List in the coffee room each month. If you need to change your date, please try to trade your week with someone or call Tom Jenne at #716-870-0013.



### December Coffee Hour Hosts

- 3 Patti & Jeff Brozyna
- 10 Sarah & Dave King
- 17 Cornelius family
- 24 Jess King & Naomi Hodgekinson
- 30 Carol Bayle & Bern Kouba



### January Coffee Hour Hosts

- 7 Tom & JoEllen Parsons
- 14 Amrock family
- 21 Blanco family
- 28 Linda & Roger Glenn



## Love Feast and Advent Wreath Making Activity

Again this year, we will hold our Love Feast and Wreath Activity on the first Sunday of Advent, DEC.3 at 5:00 pm in the Middle Room.

Those attending should bring enough sandwiches, whole pieces of fruit and baked goods for their family. The idea is to make the sandwiches special, as if for a friend because all of the food is pooled and shared. (You may not necessarily eat what you bring but if you have a picky eater who only eats what you make, it isn't a deal breaker- come anyway.)

After the feast, we will distribute Styrofoam rings, fresh greens, and candles...all the materials needed to make a beautiful Advent Wreath. If you have pruning shears, bring those along. If you have your ring from last year, bring that as well.

The two hour evening will conclude with a brief Advent reading, songs and the lighting of the first Advent candle.

Come join our Caldwell Family in this meaningful Christmas tradition. Watch for the sign-up sheet or contact Sarah King at (518)798-0615 or [scubakings@roadrunner.com](mailto:scubakings@roadrunner.com) if you would like to attend.



## Church Wide Cookie Exchange

New this year, a church wide Cookie Exchange will take place on the same evening as the Love Feast.

You may do one or both activities. If you plan to do just the cookie exchange, please bring your cookies no later than 7 PM. The exchange takes a very short time in the Coffee Room following the wreath making event.



### **Rules for Exchange:**

Bring 6 dozen of the SAME kind of cookie. They may be on a tray, cookie sheet or box cover whatever is easiest for you to transport.

Also bring a Tupper ware container to collect your cookies in. (You bring six doz. and take home 6 doz. of a mixed variety).

The sign-up sheet for the Cookie Exchange will be circulated during Coffee hour the next 3 Sundays.

Please call Jess King (518) 793-4901 or email [RNjess@att.net](mailto:RNjess@att.net) If you have any questions.



**Youth join Us for Christmas Crafts & Caroling!**

*Please join us at 11:45 on Sunday, Dec. 10th to make crafts and go caroling in the Lake George Community.*

*We will meet in the middle room following coffee hour. Please bring a lunch to eat if you think you'll get hungry.*

*Everyone is welcome to come along!*

**We are sharing Christmas Spirit, Please join us as we visit.....  
"AWAY IN A MANGER"~Nativities from Around the World**

A group from our Caldwell family will meet at the Peppermill Restaurant in South Glens Falls at **noon on Monday, December 11**. After lunch we will travel a short distance to Parks- Bentley Place, 53 Ferry Blvd., South Glens Falls to view a collection of 100 Nativities from around the world. The restaurant will provide separate checks and there is a \$5.00 donation for the tour at the museum.

Please sign up on the sheet which we will circulate during Coffee Hour the next few weeks. If you have any questions please call Jess King at 518-793-4901



**Christmas Day Community Dinner, Dec. 25 at 4:00**  
**at the Courtyard Marriott**

If you or your family would like to join others on Christmas Day for dinner, please call the church office at #518-668-2613 to make reservations.

The dinner is hosted by our church and the Inn at Erlowest.

It will be served at the Courtyard Marriott in Lake George, and you are asked to arrive at 3:30.



**DEACON'S CORNER**

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and helped to make the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. The Deacon's assembled and served 49 baskets this year! Sacred Heart Church served 100 baskets.

The Deacons have soup and freezer meals that we provide to folks who are home from the hospital or in need of some comfort food. If anyone makes soup or a larger batch of food that you would like to share and place in the kitchen freezer, please label the container with date and the kind of food that is inside.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Margy Mannix and the Deacon's



**Adopt a Family**

If you would like to participate, please take a mitten in the coffee room. Buy the gift and place it in an unwrapped box or bag along with the mitten

**Please bring it to the church by Dec. 10th. Thank you!**

# December 2017

| SUN   | MON   | TUE                                | WED   | THU                          | FRI                          | SAT |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|
|   |   |                                    |   |                              | 1                            | 2   |
| 3 Love Feast & Cookie Exchange 5-7// Comunion // Christmas Pag. Rehearsal | 4 Finance Comm. Mtg. 4:30                             | 5 Supervisory Mtg. 12:15           | 6 Parent Grp. 9-10// Book Grp. Sacred H. 11:30    | 7 Choir 7:00                 | 8 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30     | 9   |
| 10 Youth Choir Advent Singing Youth activity after worship.               | 11 CE Mtg. 5:30 Abrosia Diner Nativity Outing 12 noon | 12                                 | 13 Choir 7:00                                     | 14 Woman's Bible Study 10-11 | 15 Staff lunch 12:30 Log Jam | 16  |
| 17 Christmas Pageant // Rehearse at 9.                                    | 18  | 19 Deacon & Elder Potluck Dinner 5 | 20 Choir 7// Parent Group 9// Preschool Christmas | 21                           | 22 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30    | 23  |
| 24 <b>Christmas Eve Service 7:30</b>                                      | 25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b>                            | 26                                 | 27  | 28                           | 29                           | 30  |
| 31  |   |                                    |   |                              |                              |     |

## Happy Birthday

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Sara Bunalski  | 17 Marybeth Tenne |
| 4 Jessica King   | 20 Karen Azer     |
| 10 Kim Cornelius | 22 Maggie Earl    |
| 10 Sean Mannix   | 22 Todd Earl      |
| 12 Tom Jenne     | 25 Jesus Christ   |
| 17 Kathy Duell   |                   |



## PRAYER CONCERNS

Lauren & Karen Azer, Justin & Alex Blanco, Pam Parrott, Peg & Les Edwards, Judd Brynes, Peter Apgar, Max Ross, Gus Hoffman, Sharon Phillips, Dennis Buckley, Doug Coon, John Kohland, Jenne family, Jake Corriveau, Russell family, Dan Van Wie, McDaniels family, Jack & Ryan McMahon-Cooper, Linda Carr, Diane Backus, Lesley's friend Lara, LeRoy & Agnes Compson, Mel's friend, Steven Little, Strom family, Charles McNaughty, Raymond Calore, Pat Carpenter and her friend Chris, Bobbie Hoffman's sister's family, Joyce Wilimen, Len Bunalski, Marissa's family, Mark Mannix's friends, Boralski family, Darlene Butler.



### Pastor Appreciation Thank you Note

Dear Caldwell Family,

“My cup runneth over!” It has always been one of my favorite lines from scripture, and I find myself saying it a lot lately. As we round up our third year together, I think of all the ways Jeb’s and my lives, and those of our three daughters, have been enriched since we’ve joined this remarkable family of faith. And then add to that your annual ritual of “pastor appreciation month”—it again is cause to express: my cup runneth over!

Your embrace during worship that last Sunday in October was deeply moving, and when we returned home, we opened your gifts: a beautiful new sweater; a khaki fleece vest; special candles which I love to light—when I do I always remember St. Francis of Assisi’s line: “all the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle;” a handmade pillow depicting Seneca Ray Stoddard’s famous map of Lake George and filled with the scent of balsam fir; a beautiful watercolor painting of a solo sailor on a small boat on a picturesque lake setting—I grew up sailing and, though it has been a while, always think of myself as a sailor; a handsome heavy-duty bird feeder which hangs proudly in our front yard on the branch of the Crab Apple Tree; special books you loved that you gave me to read; gift cards to Barnes and Noble, Kohls, Jack’s Bistro, The Olive Garden, Amazon, the movies, Stewarts, and more. Your notes and special words of appreciation meant more than I can say.

Your generosity continues to amaze me. This has been a year of many “asks” with the Steeple project, our matching campaign, and now the Stewardship drive, and yet, here I am with all of these signs of your care and appreciation. Thank you hardly seems adequate, yet it is all I can say. Thank you x 100, and may God continue to guide our journey together, to the blessing of all who are affiliated with Caldwell, and beyond.

Gratefully,

Ali



## DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE HAITI MISSION SCHOOL

As we reported last month, a team went to Haiti during October to evaluate the situation concerning nationalization of the school. During that visit, the team re-emphasized to all involved that due to Tom and JoEllen's age and Tom's health concerns, their involvement at current levels in the operation of the school is no longer possible. I say "re-emphasized" because this has been a topic of discussion over many visits. It is for these, and many other reasons, we have over the course of several years been pursuing the nationalization of the school at Labastille. Our hope has been that working together with the government, the parents and the members of the Labastille Church and area, we could continue providing a good solid education for the children in this poor rural area of Haiti for many years to come.



Unfortunately, due to communications difficulties with and among the committees as well as theseemingly irreconcilable differences between the government and the committees, nationalization of the school once again eluded us. Change is often a very difficult process for many of us, myself included. Based on the above, the team recommended continuing to support the school through the current 2017-18 school year. This will allow the students to continue their education uninterrupted.

Meanwhile the local committees, parents and church members will have time and opportunity to work with the Haitian Department of Education or to find other ways to continue operation of the school into the future. If they are able to work out a way to maintain the school, it would then give us the opportunity to revisit how we might best be of assistance to them.

However, the people of the area will need to begin to take the lead in this process if the school is to continue and succeed. We can want it for them—clearly we cannot do it for them. Hopefully, in the weeks and months to come, we will be able to report progress. We hope you will continue to pray for them through this process.

At the same time, several members of the U.S. Board have begun to believe that we are actually being called to broaden or expand our mission or purpose. As the Board discussed this at some length, a new vision began to form.

Much of the effort of mission groups in Haiti centers on Port Au Prince and the areas to the north of Port Au Prince. Meanwhile, in southwestern Haiti, the area around Jèrèmie has many problems needing to be addressed. As we considered this situation, we noted that although Haitian children in cities such as Jèrèmie have more opportunities for education, those in rural areas such as Labastille often lag behind.



Since we already have a good deal of knowledge about Haitian education systems, a number of contacts in the area, a large and growing donor base and a tax-exempt approval, it occurred to us we might establish a foundation to assist rural education in southwestern Haiti around Jèrèmie. This foundation could provide grants and/or scholarships specifically to assist educational opportunities for rural children in this area. We see this broader purpose as completely in line with what our original objective was as we began our work more than ten years ago and believe that it will still qualify as a tax-exempt organization.

\*\*\* We would be very interested in hearing your reaction to this news and proposal, and promise to consider carefully any and all suggestions. Please send your thoughts and suggestions to us at [haitimissionschool@gmail.com](mailto:haitimissionschool@gmail.com). Meanwhile we thank you for your support over the years and seek your continued prayers.

## Kids Corner

Happy New Year! We again send out a big “thank you” to those folks who help out with youth at Caldwell. In December, we were busy preparing for our pageant and delving into our Seasons of the Spirit lectionary based curriculum for our two older classes, and for the younger group exploring the theme of how God Helps Us through the story of Joseph and his brothers and the theme of Friendship through the stories of David and Jonathan.

We plan to move our teaching staff around this quarter so kids can hear different voices sharing the word of God. If you'd like to be involved with CE in any aspect, please contact Sarah, Dana or Howard.

Some important dates to put on your calendar:

Dec. 3- Advent Wreath Making/Love Feast and new for 2017 Cookie Swap

Dec. 17- Christmas Pageant

Blessings,

Your CE Committee



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

**It's the Most Wonderful time of the year!  
We look forward to celebrating Jesus' Birthday!  
What peace, hope and joy He has brought to this world and we are working to share this with our student's and their families.  
The Savior of the World is with us, and we are eager to share how each little one can trust Him as their personal Savior.**

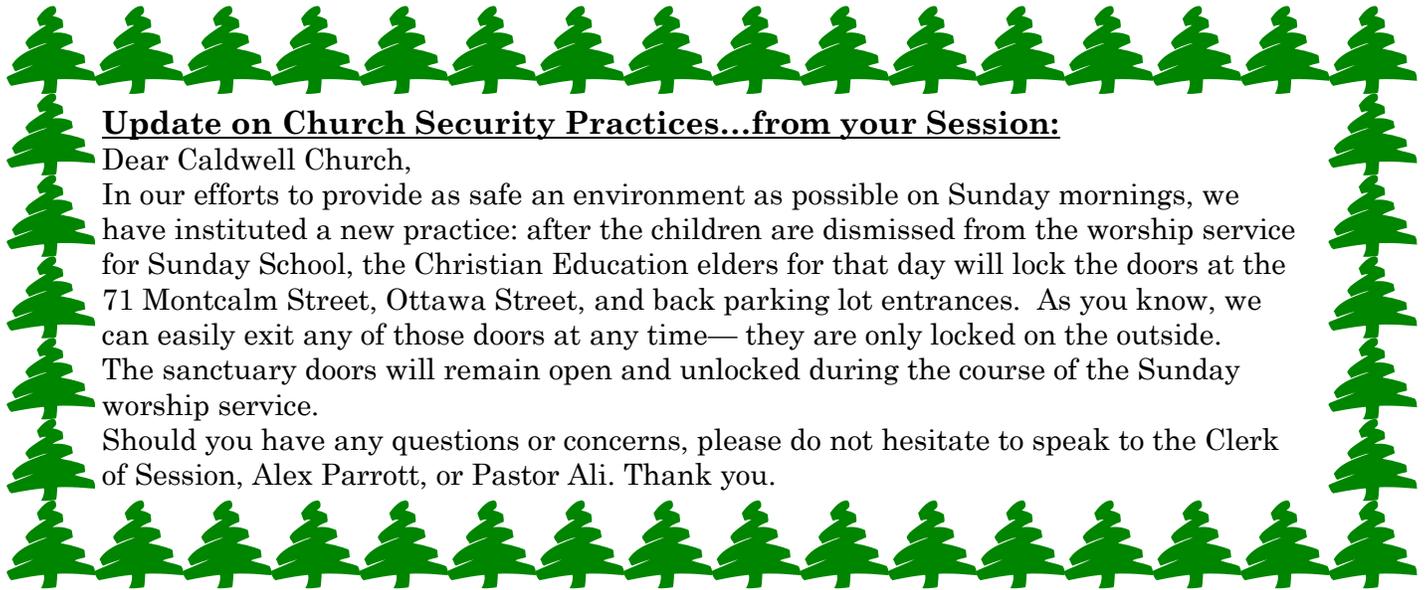
**We look forward to celebrating all month but on December 20th at 10:30 we invite our families and anyone in our church family to come and celebrate Jesus. On December 22, we will have our Pajama and movie day as we get ready for our Christmas break.**

**Thank you for your support and love for the preschool. It is a joy to serve our community with you.**

**Serving with you,**

**Christine Sallstrom**





### Update on Church Security Practices...from your Session:

Dear Caldwell Church,

In our efforts to provide as safe an environment as possible on Sunday mornings, we have instituted a new practice: after the children are dismissed from the worship service for Sunday School, the Christian Education elders for that day will lock the doors at the 71 Montcalm Street, Ottawa Street, and back parking lot entrances. As you know, we can easily exit any of those doors at any time— they are only locked on the outside.

The sanctuary doors will remain open and unlocked during the course of the Sunday worship service.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the Clerk of Session, Alex Parrott, or Pastor Ali. Thank you.

### Update from Property Committee:

As you have read in the October and November Seeker, Caldwell has been gifted with a \$10,000 gift for property improvements. The anonymous giver of this gift asked the congregation to participate in a matching exercise which has turned out to be an enormous success! Below are the results thus far— projects you have selected to complete:

- Repoint stone sign on Montcalm
- Power wash the deck and ramp
- Washing all windows of church and sanctuary
- Scrape paint off garage windows and wash
- Rake leaves
- Clean moss on blacktop apron around church
- Take air conditioners out and place in Preschool basement
- Ice melt roof wires: check that they are ready for winter
- Sanctuary ceiling –paint where stained
- New refrigerator in kitchen
- Clean refrigerator in Preschool
- New carpet under the piano in sanctuary
- Wash chandelier globes and replace bulbs
- Update fixtures in Men's room
- Office entrance vestibule: remove and infill recessed walk off mat
- Sanctuary: wash all pews and vacuum cushions

The above matching commitments from our church family represent your contributions of time, talent, and treasure valued at approximately \$4,000. Thank you all for the work you have already done, and thank you to those who have committed to completing tasks.

You may have noticed that the work has begun on painting the outside of the church. Paul Shambo and his crew are working hard to complete the task while the temperatures remain mild. Thank you all for your patience as the surfaces of the church are cleaned and prepped for painting. Soon you will walk into a shining, newly painted church.

If you had planned to participate in the matching gift exercise and just haven't had a chance to sign up yet, please contact Laura Moody directly. There are several projects still on our property to-do list.

Again, thank you, and Advent blessings.

## **The Seeker**

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845

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All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!**

### **Contact Information:**

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Secretary Email—[secretary@caldwellpres.org](mailto:secretary@caldwellpres.org)

Pastor's Email—[pastor@caldwellpres.org](mailto:pastor@caldwellpres.org)

Website— [www.caldwellpres.org](http://www.caldwellpres.org)