

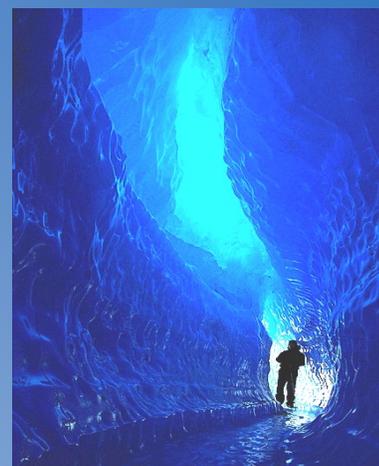
THE SEEKER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JAN. 2018



Finding Balance in the New Year

Walking outside with our pup this morning was an experience of an extreme: the sky perfectly blue, the sun bright and beaming, the air dry and seemingly suspended around us—it was as if the whole of nature was at a standstill. The only sound was the crunch of my footsteps on the snow and underlying ice—even the snow seemed “cold” today. My eyes were uncovered, but everything else was protected by layers of warmth. It was stunningly beautiful.

As we walked, I remembered an article I read recently about a six-person climbing team expedition to the bottom of the world: Queen Maud Land, Antarctica. The team hopes to summit six peaks that are with walls between two and three thousand feet tall—one of the most impressive ranges of granite in the world which most mortals will never see. It’s an experience of extreme adventure and extreme wilderness. I remembered the article described the feeling the world-class climbers will need to contend with: how to use their fingers, so crucial to rock climbing, in such cold conditions with temperatures hovering at freezing and below.



Back to my walk with Homer, I marveled at those climbers, their spirit of adventure, and chuckled at myself at the measures I had taken to stay warm for the 10 minute walk around the block.

The New Year is around the corner. It’s the time of year to slow down, make room for reflection and renewal, and let your cup be filled with the spirit of this holy season. I hope you find time to take a walk, be inspired by a story, and let it shape you into new and better ways of being. In these frigid days, with extremes of one kind or another to contend with, I hope the Light of the World warms you and steadies your steps, and that the blessings of this season of Christ’s birth fill you with joy and the peace that passes understanding.

Happy New Year to All, and hope to see you soon.

Faithfully,

Ali



Fellowship and Hospitality

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 or switch dates with you. Please notify Tom Jenne or Jessica King if you make a change.

The first Sunday of each month is Birthday Sunday. A cake is provided and will be found in the refrigerator of the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee, or you may add other snacks. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee.



Coffee Hour Hosts:

January

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

February

- 4 Fuller family
- 11 Linda & Howard Nicols
- 18 Joni Steiner & Tom Jenne
- 25 Al & Dotti Kopf



The Christmas Day Community Dinner was a big success!

102 people came together to share a meal at the Lake George Marriott.

A special thank you to **Helene Horn** for organizing the event,
and the Inn at Erlowest for the food and preparation.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this warm, generous
meal possible for the community.

Kids Corner

We hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas!

In early December, we had our annual Love Feast and Advent Wreath Making activity. New this year, we did a cookie swap at the end of the event. We had more people than usual and all enjoyed the shared food, camaraderie and cookies! Thanks to Jess King for organizing and promoting the events.

December 17 was our annual Youth Christmas service. Many thanks to all who participated, especially Rachel Hunsicker who wrote the high school piece and Naomi Hodgkinson for creating the dance in the pre-k thru 3rd grade class.

Sunday school schedule for December/January:

No classes on Dec. 31. We will resume normal classes on Jan. 7. Remember that is the first Sunday of the month so no class for the oldest group. The middle group will return to the sanctuary for communion.

Teachers for January:

Pres-school through 3rd grade- Sarah and Linda and KC Glenn alternating

Middle group: Howard Nichols

Oldest group: Jeb and Tom Jenne.

Blessings,

Sarah and Dana



A Message From the Deacons:

The deacons would like to thank you for making our work possible.

With your help we played Santa for 5 families. It was heartwarming to see the smiles, tears, and feel the hugs of those who picked up the box loads of gifts

Through out the year we have had the opportunity to be the hands and heart of God in our community through the food pantry, holiday baskets, gas cards, rent deposits, prayer shawls, and many other quiet ways. We have been diligent in our prayers for others as we hope you have been also. We also thank you for sharing with us others needs.

We look forward to the new year and again with your help serving others.

News from the Haiti Mission School January 2018

As I write this letter, I am looking out at a fresh layer of snow on the ground and we are in the midst of preparations for Christmas. Haitians are also preparing for Christmas, but without the snow. I recall spending Christmas in Panama when I was in the Army. Somehow for me, it lacked a little something... but perhaps that is simply my experience. The good news is that we celebrate the same story of the baby born in a manger. (truth be known, the climate on that first Christmas was probably more like Haiti than ours...)



A Christmas present to us this year is the news that the committee at the school has agreed to try and work with the government to proceed with the process of nationalizing the school. We hope and pray that this actually will pan out and we can begin working with them to plan a new school building. Then we'll need to figure out how we can *assist* them in the construction. They have been teaching us to not get too far ahead of them. We need to remember the school is theirs, and we are only helping where we can.

Meanwhile classes go on in temporary quarters with 148 students in 6 classes: grades K/1-6. Their Christmas break is usually about the same as ours, but theirs is a little longer. This year they will be on break from Dec. 22-Jan 8. There will be no snow days to worry about in Haiti!

We are also sponsoring 20 students (12 girls and 8 boys) in secondary school (grades 7-10) this year. These are mostly our best students who have finished at Labastille and are going to a nearby Jr. High/High school. The tuition is between \$95 and \$100 per year. On our travels to Haiti, we always make a point of going to that school and meeting with them, often in small groups. The interchange that goes on is especially enjoyable when we have a team with other teenagers along. They don't speak the same language, but have similar interests, hopes and dreams. Our students include aspiring agronomists, engineers, nurses, doctors, lawyers and pastors. Who knows... there may even be a future President here. Some of them are beginning to wonder whether we might support them in college. Little did we know when we said "Yes" to the call 12 years ago and started with that first grade class where it might lead?

This time they were very vocal about the political situation since Haiti had just installed a new President and there was talk of new taxes. Howard suggested, and they agreed to contact their local representative and see if he or she would be willing to come and meet with them. They told us they are very grateful for the opportunity to continue their education and want us to thank all of you who are supporting and praying for them. They would like you to continue praying for them and want you to know they are praying for you.

Meanwhile the U.S. board will continue the process of looking into changing our name and mission to the larger and more general undertaking of supporting education for children in rural areas of Southwest Haiti.

We send our best wishes for your coming year.

Tom and JoEllen Parsons

Haiti Mission School

PO Box 445

Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2 Sacred Heart Meal Preparation 3:30	3 Mission Mtg. Community Dinner @ Sacred Heart 5	4 Choir 7	5	6
7 Communion	8 Finance Committee Mtg. 4:30	9 Preschool Super- visory Mtg. 12:15	10	11 Choir 7	12 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	13
14 New Member Class 11:15	15	16 Session Mtg. 5:30	17 Ecumenical Book Group 11:30-12:30	18 CE Mtg. 5:30@ Panera Choir 7	19	20
21 Annual Congrega- tional Meeting & Reception of New Members	22	23	24	25 Choir 7	26 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	27
28 Ordination Installa- tion of Officers	29	30	31 Ecumenical Book Group 11:30-12:30			

Happy Birthday

4 Dave King	7 Lynda Glenn	14 Nathan Fuller
4 Oscar Blanco	8 Helene Horn	15 Garret Jackson
5 Grace Moody	8 Beverly Roach	18 Ross McIntyre
5 Grace Moody	10 Sarah King	29 Tim Hunsicker
6 Christine Cooper	11 Judy Dewey	



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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Website— www.caldwellpres.org