

THE SEEKER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FEB. 2018



February—the shortest month of the year, has quite a reputation: for sports fans, February is particularly grueling: football is (soon to be) gone, basketball plods along, and not even an inkling of baseball yet gleams on the horizon. For us in the North Country, bitter winds and frigid temperatures mix with rain, which then freezes over, making the ground a veritable ice rink wherever we go—conditions which make it difficult to get around, and which conspire to deepen one’s longing for spring.

However, poet William Cullen Bryant sees something different happening in February—the redeeming gift of hope for what is to come: “The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the buds and swells the leaves within.” And perhaps my favorite line about this month and all the pinks and reds associated with Valentine’s Day: February is a marketing ploy—love happens every day.

Love happens every day. February 14th, traditionally a day of chocolates and cards, candies and flowers, this year is also Ash Wednesday, one of the most solemn days in the church year. Ash Wednesday is the day we acknowledge our mortality and begin our 40 day Lenten Journey to Jerusalem—a journey of daily prayerful reflection and penance. The confluence of the secular and the sacred has caused some denominations to bristle, and I’ve read of some who are publically urging parishioners to do their Valentine’s celebrating on Mardi Gras, the day before Ash Wednesday. Here at Caldwell, we trust your discernment on such matters! **On February 14th, we will hold a noonday prayer service with the imposition of ashes** for anyone who would like to receive them. Incidentally, the last time Ash Wednesday was celebrated on Valentine’s Day was in 1945, the year the Detroit Tigers won the World Series. And this year, Easter is on April Fool’s Day, which will make for some great Easter Egg hunt fun for the children after church, I’m sure.

February 21st will be a very special first for our community: **the chefs at Ft. William Henry will prepare a meal for the Lake George community for the launch of the 3rd Wednesday of the Month community dinner at Sacred Heart.** Thanks to the vision of Helene Horn, as well as the faithful support of Naomi Hodgkinson, Tom Jenne, the Caldwell Youth Group, and the longstanding partnership and friendship we share with Sacred Heart, we are *proposing* that this 3rd Wednesday community supper take place once a month through May. We are in the process of inviting the Lake George restaurants to each take a turn in providing a simple meal for the Lake George community to enjoy. It will bring us together at table where we may recognize the Lord among us, and with professional restaurants help, it alleviates some of the strain on individuals preparing the meals for the community. Please mark your calendars for **Feb 21st at 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart** and spread the word, and if you are interested in serving or participating, please let me know.

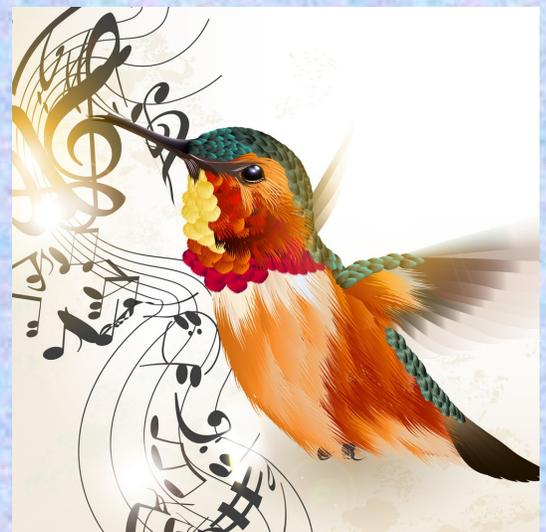
February is filled with sounds beyond our ordinary realm of hearing, the sounds of anticipation and hope. Emily Dickinson’s lines come to mind:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all.

Keep singing, my beloved Caldwell community.

Faithfully yours,

Ali



Mission of the Month—Caldwell Presbyterian Preschool

The preschool strives to prepare children, so that they can be successful as they begin school by using play to develop socially, emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. We keep learning joyful and playful, and teach skills needed for kindergarten. The children are taught that....

- God made me
- God loves me
- God wants to be my friend forever

Our needs for this year are \$1800. to meet the budget. We are behind due to being 2 students short in our enrollment; and our fall fundraiser didn't bring in the the funds that we expected it to.

Please prayerfully consider giving to support the preschool this month.

Preschool Updates

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for making The preschool your mission for February. We are excited to partner with you to love and care for the families of our community. There are so many exciting things happening in our preschool this year.

Our Open House is March 9th, 9:30-11:30. We want to invite families to come and see what happens at our school and to register for next year. If you have a child or know someone who is interested, have them call me at 570-351-3924.

Our families really stepped up to care for Ms. Neenee, (Lesley Clemons). I put out a sign-up for meals and the first day we had 8 families bringing in meals the month of February for her. They love her so much. I would imagine they will be doing whatever they can to help her in her healing journey.

We are thankful for those who keep our building in shape for school. We are grateful for those who keep our sidewalk shoveled and salted. Today there was a lot of rain but it froze and became very dangerous for our families. I should have canceled school, but everyone did there best to get in safely. Ralph (our neighbor) came over and shoveled in front of our door for about an hour and then he "built" us a "bridge" for pick-up. Thankfully, we had an ice cream sandwich from snack that we could use as a thank you for him.

We are looking forward to February when we will again emphasize God's amazing and gracious love by sending Jesus for us. What a joy it is to share this most important message with them. Praying that God would continue to give them hearts to follow after Him.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." I John 3:16a

Serving with you,

Christine Sallstrom.



Christian Education Corner :

Look for these dedicated teachers in your children's classrooms this month:

Sarah King or Lynda Glenn- pre-k- 3rd grade

Howard Nicols- grades 4th-7th

Tom Jenne and Jeb Trowbridge – grades 7-12

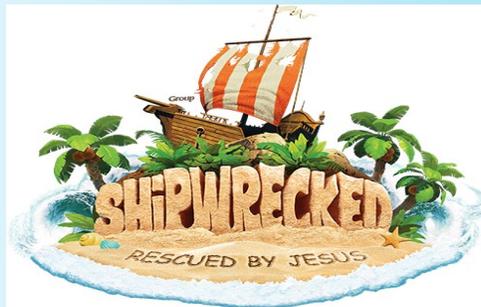
If you'd like join this fun group, contact Dana or Howard.
We even go out to dinner once a month!

Due to the school break, there won't be regular Sunday school classes on Feb. 18 or Feb. 25. We might hold a whole group craft activity on the 25th if enough kids are around. If you will be at church on the last Sunday of break, let Dana know.

It seems early but the wheels have started turning for organizing our annual Vacation Bible School! We will be doing Shipwrecked, Rescued by Jesus. We haven't confirmed a date yet but will real soon. We'll keep you posted!

Blessings,

Sarah and Dana



Historical Lecture with Jeff Brozyna

**Please join us on Sunday, Feb. 11th
at 11:30 to hear Jeff's presentation on
"The Lake George Colonial Chaplains
and Slavery"
in honor of Black History month.**

All are welcome.

Fellowship and Hospitality

The Fellowship and Hospitality 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 someone else who is listed with their permission. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHANGE ON THE CHART AND NOTIFY TOM JENNE (Tom's-cell-#716-870-0013) or Jess King.

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 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

- 4 Jess King
- 11 Nicols family
- 18 Joni Steiner & Tom Jenne
- 25 Eileen Horgan & Dale Tolene

March

- 4 Rebecca Potts & KC Glenn
- 11 Karen & Jim Bombard
- 18 Don & Marybeth Tenne
- 25 Al & Dotty Kopf

Property Committee is looking for volunteers to help with little chores around the church both inside and out. Please speak with Laura Moody or put a note in her mailbox.

Drivers Needed: Help transport area seniors to medical appointments. If you could take a turn driving even 2 or 3 times a year, that would help. Contact Helene Horn at 656-9373.

February 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Communion Worship Mtg. 11:30	5 Woman's Bible Study 10	6 Preschool Mtg. 12:15	7 Mission Mtg. 2	8 Choir 7	9 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	10
11 Jeff Brozyna presents on "Lake George Chaplains & Slavery" 11:30 -12:00	12	13 Supervisory Mtg. 12:15	14 Ash Weds. Service 12:00 Book Club 12:30 Property Mtg. 6	15 Choir 7 Christian Ed. Mtg@ Panera 5:30	16	17
18 WINTER BREAK FOR AREA SCHOOLS FEBRUARY 19-23th	19	20	21 Community Dinner@ Sacred Heart 5	22 No Choir	23 Food Pantry 9:30-11:30	24
25	26	27 Session Mtg. 5:30	28			

Birthday's this Month:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Alex Parrot | 15 Peg Edwards |
| 4 Jean Stanton | 21 Nicholas King |
| 5 Kate Trowbridge | 21 Olivia King |
| 10 Tom Roach | 27 Gale Freiburger |
| 11 Ann Kohland | |
| 11 Ben Gorey | |
| 14 Dana Whitcomb | |



News from the Haiti Mission School

No matter what else the year brings, 2018 will be a momentous year for the *Haiti Mission School* and for us. This year the school will either become government-sponsored and we will be faced with decisions about constructing a building, or the school will be closed. As we think about this, we reflect on the past eleven years, and the many joys and sorrows we have experienced together with our Haitian friends over those years.

The school opened in 2007 with a single Kindergarten/first grade class. There were 24 students ranging in age from 4 to 14. In this picture, one year later, 23 of the students who began our school had moved on to the second grade.



Now, ten years later, in 2017-18, the school is comprised of six classes with 141 students.



Some students from that original class have continued each year until they are now in secondary school. They tell us they are looking forward to careers as doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, pastors and perhaps even a future Haitian President. It is always a joy to spend time with them and hear about their concerns for their families and country, along with their hopes and dreams.

At the very least, our students, many who come from homes where no one else can read or write, will be able to read, write, do basic mathematics and have an elementary understanding of hygiene, science, history, geography and the bible.

Over the years, we began a number of special programs such as providing backpacks and bibles. Because we could not get equipment to the school to drill a well, we built a water system that collected water from the church roof into a 5,000-gallon cistern. We then installed a filtration system from *Pure Water for the World*, so there would be unpolluted water for the children and the women who cook the beans and rice.

In 2010, Haiti's disastrous earthquake in the Port Au Prince area brought a number of new students to the school, as people moved back to the area. As they moved in with relatives, families already barely surviving, suddenly had more mouths to feed. This, along with our knowledge that a hungry child doesn't learn as well, led us to begin a hot meal program which continues to this day.

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew passed directly over Labastille. It devastated the school and the surrounding area. We spent much of that year and 2017 attempting to respond to immediate needs of our students and their families.



Through all these years, the needs and means of support for the school grew. For the first few years, Tom and JoEllen were able to provide all the necessary support. However, as the school and its various needs continued to expand, it became necessary to look to others for support. At first we turned to family, immediate friends and our own church for help. Then it became obvious to us that we needed a board of directors and a way of providing tax-free donations. We incorporated as a non-profit and obtained a 501[C]3 license from the government. We now have 18 supporting congregations and more than 150 individuals and families donating financial support. Many others continue to support us and the school in prayer.

I often think of God's call to Abram in the book of Genesis. In the call, God simply said to Abram, "Go to a place I will show you," and Abram went. It often seems that way with our callings. We had no idea where we would be led or how we would manage when we said "Yes". Yet, the ideas, and the resources have always been there when we needed them. As we move on in yet another new way, we have no idea where the Holy Spirit will lead us. We simply trust that we will be led and supported as we go. Thanks be to God. Amen.

In Christ's service,

Tom and JoEllen Parsons

The Board of the *Friends of Siloam School at Labastille*, and the students and families of the school

NOTE: We are planning a spring trip to Haiti in mid-March. If you have an interest in joining us, please contact us.

Free Tax Return Preparation

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is offering free tax help to families and individuals whose household income is below \$54,000. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, free electronic filing (e-filing) will be offered. Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster if you have your refund deposited directly into your bank account. Tax Returns with stock sales, business or rental income cannot be completed by us. To schedule a tax appointment for Warren and Washington County call 800-211-5128

Prayer Concerns

Lauren & Karen Azer, Justin & Alex Blanco, Pam Parrott, Peg & Les Edwards, Linda Carr, Mel's friend, Steven Little, Charles McNaughty, Raymond Calore, Joyce Wilimen, Len & Tina Bunalski, Darlene Butler, Dean Farley, Lil' Mofe, Michael Frese, Bill Sirillo, Margy's friend, Candice Cook, Herb Wood, Hunsicker's friend, Marie & family, California fire victims, all of our military members, Scott Bidel, Chas's mother, first responders, our country's leaders, The Open Door ministry, Jim Kuipers, Heather Engwer, Kim Cook's son in Ecuador, California mud slide victims, Herb Wood, Dorothy Quigan, Cathy Wood, Lesley Clemons, Pat Carpenter's son-in-law Dick, Joyce Constantine, shooting victims, Anita Rios, Johnny Coccozza, Scott Thomas, O'Sullivan's son.



GOD'S ACCURACY

One may observe God's accuracy in the hatching of eggs. . . . those of the canary in 14 days; those of the barnyard hen in 21 days; eggs of ducks and geese in 28 days; those of the mallard in 35 days; the eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days.(Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

See God's wisdom in the making of an elephant. . . . The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. No other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body - too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily. The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

A watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. An orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of corn has an even number of rows. A stalk of wheat has an even number of grains. Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Amazing! There's more...

The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, a great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture, and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if we will only entrust Him with our lives..

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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Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email—Ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org