

THE SEEKER—MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Lent: A Time to Wander the Rooms of Your Heart”

I write this message on the morning of Ash Wednesday, the day that signals the beginning of our Lenten observance. Lent is a time to sit up straight and to take note of ourselves—not just as individuals, but also in our common humanity and our collective similarities. The season of Lent is meant to help us to tend to the places of struggle and avoidance, regret and sin.

Many of us have understood Lent as the time of the year when Christians should engage in some kind of sacrificial practice—abstaining from something—to see into this deep hunger to be whole that we share—and to stay with it, let it teach us something. The idea is that we join Jesus on his final journey to the cross by voluntarily sharing his suffering—by giving up something we have, by habit, come to enjoy perhaps too much: a noble idea, to be sure.

But giving up things is but one aspect of Lent—a very small adjustment to help us purge our “pacifiers”—the things we turn to for comfort—in order that we may open ourselves to what the theologian Barbara Brown Taylor calls, the hollowness inside ourselves. She writes: “Whenever we start feeling too empty inside, we stick our pacifiers into our mouths and suck for all we are worth. They do not nourish us, but at least they plug the hole.”

Taylor wisely notes that “the hollowness we sometimes feel is not a sign of something gone wrong. It is the holy of holies inside of us, the uncluttered throne room of the Lord our God.” And rather than seek to fill it, with food or sweets, TV or social media, or other things, we would do ourselves good to let it remain open, and find out what life is like with no pacifiers, but God. To make time to sit alone in silence, which is to sit alone with God, and to wander the rooms of your heart.

Theologian Jan Richardson says that our entire life is “...inscribed whole upon your heart’s walls: every path taken or left behind, every face you turned toward, or turned away, every word spoken in love or in rage, every line of your life you would prefer to leave in shadow, every story that shimmers with treasures known and those you have yet to find. It could take you days to wander these rooms. Forty, at least. And so let this be a season for wandering, for trusting the breaking, for tracing the rupture that will return you to the One who waits, who watches, who works within the rending to make your heart whole.”

Our faith tells us that if we set apart time like this during Lent, we will see a glow of something bright. As the prophet Isaiah writes, “your light shall break forth like the dawn...”

This Lent, let us remember the simple and profound truth of the gospel: we are sons and daughters of God, forgiven and freed from the weight of our sin, loved by the God we know in Jesus Christ—the same God who keeps calling us out, calling us back, summoning us, saying, “Turn again. Turn again to me. I will may you whole.”

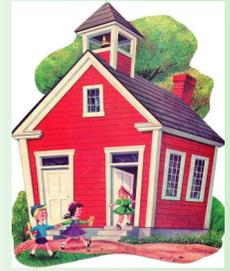
A holy and blessed Lenten Journey to you all.

Faithfully,
Ali



Preschool News:

February's preschool theme is do everything in love. The children celebrate valentines and the love of family, school, and church all month long. We are making valentines to share with our families and friends. The whole school enjoyed a field trip to the World Awareness Children's Museum. We learned about Chinese New Year, celebrations, and other cultures.



Prayer Concerns: Mel's friend & family member, Katie B., Alison Darby, Nancy Hollenbeck's family, Jimmy Carter, Tom Roach, Ron Powers, Dr. Brasil, rain needed for crops in Haiti and Uganda, earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, Gladys Tasker, Ro's daughter Andrea, Ella Cavas, the people of Ukraine, violence in Haiti, Bev's sister Carol, Michael's mother Joan, Kathleen O'Brian, persecuted Christians, Volodymyr Abaschnik, Pam Parrott, JoEllen's brother-in-law Ron and Peter, Fuller's father-in-law, Helene Horn's family.



Lenten Bible Study: "Walking with Jesus, Five Bible Studies for Lent." Beginning **Wednesday, March 8th, 1:00-2:00 p.m., here at Caldwell and on zoom.** The study will take us from the journey to Jerusalem for the Passover celebrations and a waiting Cross, to later, following the Resurrection, another journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus. In-between are several incidents and opportunities for Jesus to teach that are maybe not so well known but important in the bigger picture. In our own journey through Lent, it is a good time to see how these stories, big and small, feed into our understanding of who Jesus is and what Easter means for us. Everyone is welcome and a free copy of the study is available in the church office.

NEW!! WOMEN IN THE BIBLE ZOOM ONLY BIBLE STUDY: Beginning on **Thursday, March 2nd, from 9 – 10 a.m., all are welcome to attend a new zoom-only bible study of: "What My Grandmother's Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus."** This study offers us a chance to get to know some of the women in the bible who influenced Jesus like Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. If you plan to attend, **please call the church office so you can receive the zoom link.** #518-668-2613. All are welcome.



Mission of the Month for March — One Great of Sharing

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 22 – April 9), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The OGOF provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. PDA receives 32% of funds raised.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

PHP receives 36% of funds raised.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. SDOP receives 32% of funds raised

Throughout the month we will highlight different parts of One Great Hour of Sharing through bulletin inserts and Minutes for Mission. Please prayerfully consider supporting their efforts. We will be talking more about their programs as the month goes on. If you wish to donate, please write a check to the church and identify OGS or One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo field or on your envelop.

More information can be found at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Dave Madden | 16 Mel Quigan |
| 2 Carol Bayle | 22 Tim McCann |
| 3 Ginny Hoose | 22 Margo Mulleins |
| 6 Thalia Chase | 23 Kate MacEachron |
| 9 Lonny Chase | 23 Leah Jenne |
| 9 Jim Corriveau | 26 Linda Nicols |
| 12 Barb O'Reilly | |
| 12 Lauren Azer | |
| 13 Pat Carpenter | |



It's Time to Order Easter Flowers!!!!

If you order flowers, please fill out this form and make the check out to the Caldwell Presbyterian Church. Please mail it or place it in the offering plate **by Sunday, March 26th**. You can take your flowers home following the Easter Service. —Thank you.

Lillies 6" pot (6+ blooms)	\$14.99_____
Tulips 6' pot	\$13.99_____
Daffodils 6" pot	\$10.99_____
Hyacinths 6" pot	\$10.99_____
Azaleas 10" pot (2 plants)	\$36.99_____
Hydrangea 6" pot (3 blooms)	\$21.99_____



Your Name: _____

The Caldwell Connection

Since my last Caldwell Connection, we've lost several members of our Caldwell Family. My heartfelt condolences to the families of Helene Horn, Chuck Huppert, and Nancy Hollenbeck. Take a minute to look over the list below and think about reaching out to one or more of these folks with a card or a phone call, to let them know they are missed and still a part of our Caldwell family.

Jess King- she usually attends our Tuesday Talks with Ali but attends Sunday service on Zoom.
 Leslie Clemmons- is currently caring for her mother downstate.
 Peg Earl- living in Hudson at Fireman's Home and enjoying visits from Ali and family members.
 Gladys Taker- broke her leg but healing at home with son Richard at her side.
 Stan Rummell
 Carol Bayle
 Joni Steiner

Prayers and Best Wishes for 2023 to these and all our Caldwell Family!
 If you know of someone in our congregation who should be recognized, please email Sarah King at scubakings@roadrunner.com and I'll include them in our next Caldwell Connection in March.

Choir Practice has begun for Easter. Please join us to rehearse in the Middle Room of the church. Anyone over the age of 12 is welcome!!!

We will have choir practice this week on Thursday March 2nd at 7:00.

Next week and there after, it will be on Wednesdays at 7:00



Storytime with Bev Roach by Sarah King

In case you missed Bev's amazing talk about her life growing up in Panama, Honduras, and Cuba, here's a recap. Unfortunately, I was away for her talk but got a recording of it, listening to it, and wrote this piece.

Bev began her talk by stating, "I had an interesting and unusual life". It all began with her dad looking for an engineering job. He and his brother had trained as mechanical engineers and in the depression era of the 1930s, were unable to find jobs. They heard there were jobs in engineering on the Panama Canal, which was 20 years old at the time. They and their wives packed up and headed to Panama. Bev's uncle landed a job at the Madden Dam. Bev's dad found work on the Pacific side of the canal at the roundhouse of the Panama railroad.

Bev was born in Panama in the 1940s and lived there for 10 years. The family went through many revolutions while living in this region. "It was a dangerous time for us" she recalls. We had to stay in our compound during these volatile times, often being shot at if they left. We were taught to shoot guns in grade school. We would have target practice on Sunday nights. My siblings and I were crack shots. My mother was a regular Annie Oakley. We always tried to outshoot her but never could! We were also avid horseback riders. Our homes were in the jungle, our backyards home to jaguars, spider and howler monkeys and snakes. Oh, the snakes! They were poisonous and everywhere.

Panama was a very Americanized place in the 1930s. There were roads, sidewalks, churches, and schools. They had friends, The Wallace's, who had four boys who lived on the Atlantic side of the canal. We would often take our 1930s black Plymouth and drive to visit them. This involved driving on a very remote jungle road. On one occasion, we were driving back from the Wallace's and heard a thud. We wondered what we had hit. We kids rolled down the windows and my father took his flashlight and got out of the car. We had run over the largest snake I have even seen! It was as thick as a thigh and about 15' long! My dad shortly discovered it was not dead and realized it was getting ready to strike our car! He quickly got back in the car and had us roll up our windows. When we got home, I was afraid to get out of the car, scared that somehow the snake had hitched a ride back with us.

Another fun story was on another trip after coming back from visiting the Wallaces. It was near dusk and we passed a nice looking man hitchhiking at the beginning of the jungle road. We were concerned that he was unaware of how remote this road was. We decided to turn around and offer him a ride. When he got into the car, we realized it was Cary Grant! He was in Panama making a film. He invited us to see the movie set, which we did and as guests of Mr. Grant, were treated very well.

In the late 1940s, my father was sought out by the United Fruit Co. in Honduras. They wanted him to oversee operations on the TELA Railroad Company, which transported bananas from the plantations to the ports. They promised him lots of perks and an increase in pay, so off to Honduras we went. When we moved to Honduras in the 1940s, it was like stepping back 100 years. Unlike Panama, Honduras was a third world country. It had no infrastructure, an unstable government, and was always on the brink of a revolution. It was an awful time. The education system and food supply were poor. I remember being hungry a lot. The cattle had TB, so you couldn't eat the meat or drink the milk. We ate a lot of citrus. The country was full of disease. While living there, my father contracted Malaria and got bitten by a poisonous snake. We lived in a house at the end of a peninsula. We had a guard on the compound and no car. My mother rode her bike when she needed to go anywhere. Like in Panama, our backyard belonged to the wild animals. We had jaguars, panthers, and monkeys. We called the monkeys our "weathermen" as they would howl before a storm. There were also lots of snakes. Bev described their compound as an "old western town" with the railroad tracks running down the middle.

Honduras was also hit hard by the worldwide polio epidemic. Many people who knew were getting polio. My father was very concerned with this and kept us isolated. As she mentioned, the country seemed to always be in turmoil. My father's workers were always angry about wages. I can think of one situation where my father was backed into a corner and surrounded by angry workers. This story brings me to tell you about a man named Colonel Guy Molony, or "Machine Gun Molony". His sidekick was named General Lee Christmas. Guy was a Mercenary who was not affiliated with the fruit company. He was also my godfather. It was said that the character of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were based on Guy and Lee. Guy had apparently taken over the government of Honduras three times. He was a giant of a man, standing 6'6". In Bev's words, "he was one tough hombre". He took a liking to my father and would often come to our house on Sundays to discuss the problems in Honduras and observe our weekly target shooting practice. He was pleased that we kids were such crackerjack shots.

....continued on the next page



Storytime with Bev Roach continued.....

On that occasion that my father was surrounded by his angry workers, Guy walked out on his porch, pointed his guns into the air, and fired three times. The workers dispersed. He also warned us at one point that something was brewing. The workers were threatening to shoot us and chop us up with their machetes. I was at school with my siblings. The teacher got a call and looking serious, hung up and informed us that the strikers were coming and to run for home as quick as we could. We did and laid out all our guns on the dining room table. That night we received a telegram from the US government stating that they were sending a plane and that all American women and children were to be on board to fly to the United States. My mother and brother and sister and I flew home and ended up on a Trailways bus to Lake George to stay with my uncle Lloyd Higgins on Flat Rock Road. Feeling like we were imposing on my uncle, my mother eventually bought a summer house on Middle Road. We left Honduras in April and in July we received a telegram that the strike was over and that my father was coming to Lake George. My father relayed that while the strike was going on, a Navy destroyer was stationed in the bay in front of our house stayed there until the strike was over.

My father was then transferred into the interior of Honduras where the banana plantations were. We had a beautiful home, golf course and pool there. Revolution eventually reared its head again and once while being out with friends after curfew, we were shot at by the guards on our compound. My father worked in Honduras for nine years, until he was transferred to Cuba.

What a gorgeous country Cuba was, and no snakes! Fidel Castro was at this time a guerrilla living on the east side of Cuba, right in our neighborhood. I remember that he liked the attention, often inviting American photographers and reporters to his "hideout". His rebels were aggressive and "macho", robbing cars on the street. Once my brother was walking on a wall and fell and cut his leg badly. Sepsis and gangrene had set in making a medical visit a necessity. As there were no hospitals, my mother loaded him into a car and drove to a clinic an hour away, using backroads to avoid the rebels. The rebels did finally catch them in the fields and made them get out of the car. My mother was angry and was talking back so one rebel put a gun to her chest and pulled the trigger. Thankfully, it was only a blank but scared the life out of her. The rebels thought it was a fun joke to pull on her. The rebels were also kidnapping American men for ransom during this time. We knew my father, who was the "jefe" at the sugar mill would eventually be taken. He was but apparently his workers were so angry that they were unable to run the mill without him, that he was returned by the rebels.

When Castro came to Havana and Baptista was ousted, we knew it was only a matter of time that the mill would be taken, as all large companies were. My mother packed up what she could and shipped it all the Boston. We would sleep in our clothes with all the lights as the rebels would usually come at night. One night they did come and gave them one hour to pack and marched my brother and parents by gunpoint to the boat that would take them to Boston. They were told to get on and never come back. I was not present for this occurrence as both my twin sister and I were attending nursing school in the states. At the time, we both thought we would get our degrees and return to Honduras to work in public health. My sister did just that but I ended up marrying Tom right after nursing school. My sister and I had returned to Lake George for high school where I met Tom.

Bev finished up her talk by telling us that she and her sister were writing a book about their childhood in Panama, Honduras and Cuba. The tales she told us today were just a small sampling of the unbelievable adventures they experienced during their youth.

If You Would Like to Share All or Part of Your Life Story with Others, Please contact JoEllen Parson's #518-696-3990 or email the church office and we will get in touch with you: secretary@caldwellpres.org

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY SUPPER on MARCH 8th at SACRED HEART CHURCH, 5-6 p.m. HOSTED by MARIO'S RESTAURANT:

On the Menu: Chicken Parmesan or Penne and Pink Sauce
Salad with House Italian or Pepper Parmesan dressing, Rolls and butter
Desserts provided by volunteers. Sign up in church office or at Coffee Hour!
ALL ARE WELCOME and the meal is FREE!

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Hanging Bird Feeders the Youth and Children made for the Warren Center in Queensbury, NY. uring February.





Youth Group

March whether in like a lamb or lion, it is a transitional month for all of God's creation and a true delight of the senses. With our eyes we can see daffodil greens reaching towards the sun. We can hear the songs of birds returning home. We can taste the sap flowing through the maples. Spring rains bring a scent to the air from which we can smell earth.

Open your hearts, be grounded in faith and feel the essence of rebirth and new growth potential - both within you and all around you. ***Colossians 3:10: "Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him."***

Fun in Fellowship: March 5th Wear a Fancy Hat &/or Your Sunday best and join the Youth Group for a Spring Tea, following our Church Service on March 5th. Enjoy music, tasty treats and tea or coffee prepared by the members of our Youth Group.

Rock Painting March 19th. Let your creative juices flow and create an inspiring image or word on a rock for our Rock Garden. ***This activity will be included in Angel Disciples Sunday school as well as during Coffee Hour for all!***

Angel Disciples Sunday School: 3/5, 12, 19 and 26th during church service.

Youth Group Book Study: "The Dream Giver" PLEASE NOTE time change - both the 3/12 & 3/19 meetings will take place BEFORE church service at 9:15am.

**Save the date: our Annual Eggtravaganza!!!! Fun In Fellowship Sunday, April 2nd
—Egg Decorating!**

Please like us/follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/caldwellpres> for pictures and current happenings at Caldwell. Below are some pictures from a recent youth activity: Margo, Caldwell's Youth Director, has been busy scheduling some fun events since we last updated you in January. We've made cat toys and dog blankets for the SPCA in January, had our second Cultural Café and Taize service in February, and made peanut butter and birdseed hearts to hang at Warren Center for Seniors. More fun planned for March!



Making Dog Toys for the SPCA



Spring Rummage Sale is coming in April!!!

Set up is going to start on Sunday,

April 30th - 3rd.

Sale on the 4-6th.

Watch for details in the April Newsletter

News From The Haiti Mission School for March 2023

Lent:

Lent is rapidly approaching as I ponder my journey and the journey of our Haitian friends through this time. As I have talked with family, friends, other members our church etc. about what we might give up for lent, it gave me pause to wonder what our brothers and sisters in Haiti might be thinking about giving up for Lent. What does someone who has so little in the way of food or shelter or clothing etc. think about sacrificing for their Lord during this Holy Season?? Thoughts to ponder as we ponder and practice our own sacrifice of giving up for Lent..

Primary School:

Although our students are out of school this week for 3 days+ because of Carnival, they have been back in class since December. Most of them have new uniforms, our primary students have new books, pencils and a hot meal each day, however they all have those same big smiles that we love so much. I pause to wonder what they and their families are giving up for Lent?



Secondary School:

We just paid our new three months (February, March, April) tuition for our secondary school students. They have been back in school working hard since mid November. At the current exchange rate, it costs, on average, \$150 US per year to send one of these students to school for one school year. This includes their classes, books, uniforms and a meal each day. Certainly a bargain at twice the price. We hope they are not giving up studying for lent and wonder what they might actually be giving up.

Homes:

This is the current home where we are working to rebuild the exterior walls destroyed by the hurricane. This picture does not reflect the work that has been done. We hope that picture will be in the next issue. We are about 4/5 complete and, of course, with the continuing cost of materials and transportation we have exceeded our budget of \$1,800. We are blessed that the church who said they would help with this rebuilding project has decided to contribute the additional \$450 to complete the exterior walls so this family will once again have the privacy, security and protection from the weather most of us take for granted. I know this family will be celebrating the completion of these walls.



Church:

We received a letter and pictures from the Church at LaBastille this last months. They are undertaking the rebuilding of their church. The church was destroyed in the 2018 earthquake and they have been worshiping in a temporary space. We have also been using this space as classroom space, just as we were doing prior to the destruction of the original building. They are requesting help in this step out in faith. This rebuilding is a huge undertaking for them, just as it would be for many of us. So, please keep them in prayer as they work and as we consider how we might best help.



Thanks are due to all who have supported us and our Haitian Sisters & Brothers in prayer, donations & countless other ways. The Board of the Friends of Siloam School (both US & Haitian), our students, families, faculty & others.

**Haiti Mission School
P. O. Box 445
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846
haitimissionschool@gmail.com
www.haitimissionschool.org**

A 501(c)3 organization

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:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email— ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org