



THE JOY OF EASTER

he longer days of light, the warmer air, and the various songs of the birds in the morning and evening; all are signs that the seasons are changing. We start to leave behind the memories of the anxieties we encountered through the pandemic

and the colder days of winter as we venture into a new season, not only with Mother Nature but also by the church calendar.

My spirit is lifted in a time of rejoicing as I witness the buds and bulbs sprouting through God's wonderful earth. It is a time of reflecting on what we have learned about ourselves: resiliency, patience, anxieties, and the way we have been able to reach out and care for family, friends, and neighbours in new ways. Many of us have embraced the new technology that we never used before, ZOOM, and can look back and chuckle a little on how we got introduced to this platform that helps keep us connected as we stay at home and stay safe. We found ways to text on

our Apple and other makes of cell phones and we even found time to pick up the telephone and just call a family member, friend, and or neighbour and chat about how we both have been doing. An old-fashioned telephone call or a card by mail can certainly brighten many people's days. That is the one of the many joys that I have experienced by listening to your stories of how you have stayed connected and cared for your neighbours, families, and friends.

We recognize that times have really changed, whether we wanted them to or not, and how quickly we have adapted, even at times grumbling along the way. We recognize that change is difficult, but it was and is still something we must do in order to stay connected, care for one another, and continue to reach out and support the various initiatives and programs for people we may never meet.

Reflecting on the changes we have made is one way that we can prepare for the celebration of Easter

at Calvary. We prepare ourselves through the Lenten season – the six Sundays leading to and including Palm Sunday. Perhaps you are preparing yourself for Easter in the Lenten tradition of fasting or maybe like me you are reflecting on what can I do differently in my life to help

others who suffer every day. Prayer and meditation may have been your mainstay during Lent or continuing to run errands for your stay-at-home neighbours. Each of these activities and many more, that I have not mentioned, prepare us for those most holy of days leading to the great celebration of Easter where we once again give thanks for the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus our Saviour. The joy of the empty tomb on Easter morning!

We have accompanied one another through one of the worst times of our lives, living through a pandemic. Easter is the celebration of new life, new hope, new joys experienced through the Risen Christ.

For all the blessings that Calvary United Church offers to the greater community in His name, we give thanks to God. Thanks also to you for the support and care that you extend to one another. Hope and Joy is the Risen Christ experience that we celebrate on Easter and once again we sing and shout; *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia – He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!*

Happy Easter! *Rev. Kerry (he/him)*



Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday/Communion - April 10th, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday – April 14th, 7:00 pm at White Oaks United Church

Good Friday - April 15th, 10:30 am

Joined by Wesley-Knox United Church, White Oaks United Church, and St. Andrew's Memorial Anglican Church

Easter Sunday - April 17th, 10:30 am

From the office files

The Calvary United Church community has been saddened by the passing of: Delores Landers

The Mitten Tree



Thank you to all those who donated hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks.

They were taken to the London Community Chaplaincy to be distributed to the families at Southdale and Limberlost...

...and thanks to those who put it up and took it down!



Catalyst

The Calvary Catalyst is published four times a year. Its purpose is to inform and report on news and events at Calvary United Church.

> Submission deadline for the next issue is: Friday, May 27th, 2022.

Send submissions to Kim Knowles: calvaryuc@execulink.com

Calvary United Church

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They're back!

Big thanks to Mary and Marg for keeping our youth connection time running over the course of the pandemic.

- Danielle Boussen





Jazz Vespers



arch Jazz Vespers was another well attended success. Many thanks to Rev. Kerry, our guest speaker Rev. Michelle Owens and the amazing Jazz Vespers Quintet (Glenn Parsons, Ken McLagan, Larry Ernewein, Sandy MacKay, and vocalist Beth Parsons) for a wonderful time of music and worship.

- Bruce Jones

Twas the night before Christmas...



Our beautiful Sanctuary... ready for the Christmas Eve Service.

Calvary's Lenten Project - Ark Aid

alvary's Lenten project for 2022 is Ark Aid Street Mission. It has functioned in London since 1984, and is based at 698 Dundas Street in sOld East Village.

Ark Aid is interdenominational. It exists to serve people who live on the margins of society, putting Christian faith and love to work where they are needed most. Currently in London there are over 400 homeless people.

Weekday mornings and afternoons Ark Aid offers a safe and secure environment for coffee and snacks, conversation, counselling and prayer.

Seven days a week Ark Aid offers a hot dinner. In the three winter months this year it served 37,800 meals.

Ark Aid receives and distributes donations of food, clothing, hygiene products, school supplies. Many of its workers are volunteers. It offers night-time shelter and beds to over 100 people in need each night, with a shower, laundry, and clothing program.

If you wish to make a donation, envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Make your cheque payable to "Ark Aid Street Mission" and return it to Calvary. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a receipt from Ark Aid for income tax purposes.

Currently our former Supply Minister, Rev. Susan Cameron is Ark Aid's Chaplain and Outreach Worker.

- Karen Butt, Outreach Committee

Financial Support for Pursuing Post-Secondary School Education

Application Deadline April 30, 2022

The Board of Trustees administers two programs designed to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants pursuing post-secondary school education at a Canadian university or college. The application deadline for the school year starting this coming September is April 30. Applications will be reviewed by this year's Selection Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Full details and application forms for the Scholarship Program and the Bursary Program are on the church website (www.calvaryuc.ca).

- Wally Robinson

Bazaar News!

Yes, you read it correctly. The Bazaar.

The past two years have shown us that we are indeed resilient, and can manage to modify our bazaar actions when we need to.

The three of us (Pam Harrison, Marg LaRocque and Kristen Goodman) met this week though, to begin our planning for the 2022 Bazaar at the Church. So please mark Saturday, November 5 in the morning for this event. We will be setting up the day before so you'd better mark that too. We have contacted our leads from previous years and are pleased to report that all are willing to help again. We would like to be able to present some new items in the craft area, have lots more preserves and baking, as usual and will be asking for some gently used items, books, etc. There will be more details coming out.

Throughout the year you may receive some lovely thoughtful gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. that you may not need or want to keep. Could you please consider donating them to us? We will be in touch throughout the upcoming months telling you who to contact for what and who may be contacting you for your involvement. Thanking you in advance for your continuing support of this church fundraiser.

– Pam Harrison, Marg LaRocque and Kristen Goodman

If you would like further information on how you can get involved, or what this is all about, please contact Marg at 519-681-7810.

PS: We are looking for plastic 3 inch and 5 inch pots. They can be dropped off at the church.

A look back at last year's Bazaar...



What is CHAMPION?

reative Hands and Minds Program In Our Neighbourhood (CHAMPION) is a program to enable seniors age (55+) of London to age well by being active, creative, and social.

How and why did CHAMPION get started?

The Calvary Visioning Initiative from 2018-2019 determined, based on the location and the underutilization of the building, the need to expand current programs and provide new initiatives for seniors in the London community. Some members of the Wednesday Social Club were ready to get together for some games and fellowship again. The federal government grant opportunity known as New Horizons for Seniors was receiving applications in December 2021 and The Reverend Kerry Stover, Kris Goodman, Nancy Hind, Mary Kannakko, and Ruthanne McLagan submitted a proposal.

What are some of the aims of CHAMPION?

Seniors of Calvary, their friends, neighbours, and new acquaintances will come together in engaging and creative programs. The steering committee and volunteer coaches will listen to the requests and shared interests of neighbourhood seniors for an on-going multi-faceted program. The various programs are open and welcoming to London's diverse community. There are no fees. Participants can drop-in and leave the sessions according to their own schedules. Various guest speakers will present on topics of interest such as gardening, art, healthy diet, charities like Ark Aid, music therapy, or lead events such as drumming or creative writing.

When does CHAMPION meet and what are the current activities?

Please join us as able Wednesdays 1 pm to 4 pm. For social distancing, there are activities in the parlour, chapel, and the 4th floor game and sewing center. For the "Hands" activities, volunteer coaches lead in the making of sleeping bags for the homeless from used blankets. Activities include sorting, measuring, cutting, piecing, sewing, and knotting. For the "Minds" activities there is gentle stretching for body and thoughts on the topic of the day, snack time conversation, card games, and board games (guest speaker to be announced).

- Ruthanne McLagan













Some of the people at CHAMPION recently:
Gerda Jensen, Kris Goodman, Wayne Harrison, Rev. Kerry Stover, Karen Butt, Liz Carruthers, Lyse Geldard, Fern Heslop, Kathie Leigh, Bonnie Holt, Mary Kannakko, Liz Macdonald, Brenda Radforth, Nancy Hind, Jill Lucas, Katy Farrow, Ruthanne McLagan, Nancy Palmer, Brian Wallace, Marlene Wyatt, Kathi Barton, Julie Downes, Pam Harrison, and Joan Rainy. (Apologies if we missed anyone.)



























Our Fundscrip shopping/gift card fundraiser has resumed!

ur next bi-weekly order date is Sunday, April 10th with cards available for distribution the following Sunday or by

prior arrangement with Nancy Hind.

To cut down on paper waste, order forms will be available by request only. You can go to www.fundscrip.com to find out what retailers' cards are available,

including our past favourites. To order, send Nancy an e-mail listing what cards you want. Or you can write a note and give it to Nancy along with payment. Cheques are to be made out to Calvary United Church.

Alternatively you can set yourself up on the Fundscrip site as a group supporter of Calvary United Church,



London, Invitation Code FündScrip JVFQUX Then order and pay directly on-line via credit card (our profit is reduced by

a 1.99% fee for using credit cards) or by EFT (free but you need to apply ahead of time to set up for Electronic Fund Transfer and orders must be placed in time for Fundscrip to receive payment by 9:00 a.m. on the Monday).

Contact Nancy (nancyhind@rogers.com) or 519-434-4048 with any questions or for further details.

Upcoming order dates: April 10 & 24, May 8 & 22, and every other week for the balance of 2022.

- Nancy Hind

Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Crisis in Ukraine

s Russia continues the attack on Ukraine, millions are fleeing the war zone and are being welcomed into the relative safety of neighbouring countries. As this



humanitarian crisis worsens, food supplies are becoming more difficult to access. Infrastructure is being targeted. People are living in fear.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is working with partners in the area to alleviate some of the hardships being



Canadian

faced by these traumatized citizens.

If you feel able, please consider making a donation to Canadian Foodgrains Bank's appeal at www.foodgrainsbank.ca

- Kathie Leigh, Outreach Committee

UCW...

Potatoes rather than Lucky Charms

alvary's UCW unit celebrated St. Patrick's Day afternoon, in-person and by Zoom, with "Potatoes Rather than Lucky Charms," an hour of songs, worship, conversation, and yummy food.

We heard Mother Machree recorded by Robert White in 1988, and Danny Boy recorded by Elizabeth and Glen Parsons in 2020. We joined our own voices for Rop tú mo baile a traditional Christian hymn of Irish origin we know today as Be Thou My Vision. We contemplated relevant messages from a story of the Irish potato and two poems by Irish writer Katharine Tynan.

Highlights were praying for God's love, healing, and peace; watching two videos of Emily's Irish dancing; eating cupcakes (thank you Pam); and complimenting each other on our green clothing and accessories.



Spring is in the air!



obins have been sighted, plants are shooting up in spots, muck is around and yes, you're probably thinking underwear! For quite a number of years Calvary members have been fabulous supporters of our *Undie Sunday* campaign. All donations are given to Mission Services to be given to our neighbours in need. A small touch of dignity.

We will begin collecting items at the beginning of May. If shopping isn't your thing, I'll remind you if you'd prefer to donate money, we can purchase more with a discount. Your choice. To etransfer, it's krisgoodman@live.ca

More details will follow.

-Kris Goodman

Calvary Library

alvary Library is open again for self-service before Sunday's service, and with someone available to assist you in your selection after the service. During church office hours you can gain access to the Library through Kim Knowles or Mike Wittich.



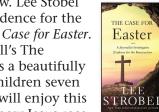
The

Wonderful

Surprise

Lent is well underway but it's still possible to borrow a book of Lenten meditations to enhance the Season.

Calvary Library includes books that focus on the last week of Jesus' life. Peter Marshall's The First Easter, Herbert O'Driscoll's Four Days in Spring and James Taylor's Last Chance are just a few. Lee Stobel investigates the evidence for the resurrection in The Case for Easter.



Martha Marshall's The Wonderful Surprise is a beautifully illustrated book. Children seven

to nine years old will enjoy this book which tells how Jesus rose from the dead, appearing to Mary Magdalene, and later others among his followers and friends.



VeggieTales, An Easter Carol was inspired by Dickens' Christmas classic. This DVD

explains why millions of Christians around the world celebrate Easter past, present and future. We hope to see you very soon.

- Darlene Sanderson, Calvary Library Committee

CALVARY MPASS

The first edition of Calvary Compass went out on Tuesday, March 15th. Calvary Compass replaces our weekly Calvary email and has a new, more visual format. Thank you to Bev and Barry Reed for suggesting the name. Thank you also to the many people who sent suggestions for the new name. The new logo was designed by Bruce Jones and the layout was designed by Kim Knowles.

The new format is easy to read and has images and photos included with the news items. If you have news to share, please contact Mary Kannakko or the Church Office. Submissions are due the Sunday before the email goes out. The Calvary Compass will be emailed every Tuesday, except when Monday is a holiday, when it will go out on Wednesday.

Calvary Green

ur first Calvary Green Worship Service led by Rev. Kerry and the Calvary Green team on March 20 was a blooming success. 2022 has been designated "Canada's year of the Garden," and this first day of Spring was the kick off date.

From coast to coast, the passion for gardening has never been more evident than during the pandemic as families turned their yards into beautiful garden sanctuaries... a source of exercise, relaxation and wellness. For more info go to gardenscanada.ca

Everyone is encouraged to plant some red flowers. Seed packs were handed out after service for a variety of red flowers... some native and pollinator and some red leaf lettuce.

CEAP

Take the CEAP pledge. (Climate Emergency Action Pledge) and take a stand on climate change. For more details go to climateactionlondon.ca Cards are available at Church.



Greening Sacred Spaces, London

On April 22, from 3pm to 7pm, join Londoners at Victoria Park to celebrate 2022 Earth Fest with a Climate March.

Thank you!

THANK YOU for supporting Calvary's Ongoing Recycling projects (bins in annex hallway). All are welcome to join Calvary Green. Your suggestions are important to us.

Calling all gardeners!

Calvary Green is excited to further develop our Pollinator Garden this summer.

We are hoping you will consider joining our garden group. No expertise is required, the time commitment is minimal, and it will be a great learning experience.

If interested, we are looking to recruit:

- Mid-April: 2-3 persons willing to help with the trimming of shrubs.
- Mid-May: 4-5 persons to help with the spring garden clean, including weeding, transplanting and planting new plants and mulching. A new herb garden will also be planted.
- June-September: 1-2 persons per week on a scheduled rotation basis to weed and water. Rain barrels will be installed in the area to facilitate this. A half day morning or afternoon date to be determined.

This is a wonderful opportunity to not only help the environment but get out and enjoy the fresh air. We are fortunate that a Master Gardener has agreed to provide us with her expertise and later a group presentation to launch our project.

If interested please contact a Calvary Green member.

- Lyse Geldard & Marlene Wyatt

Thank you from ATLOHSA!

s you will recall, our 2021
Advent Project was in support
of Atlohsa Family Healing
Service, a non-profit organization
in Southwestern Ontario, providing
community members with Indigenousled programming and services that



offer holistic healing, education, and shelter support. These include an Emergency Women's Shelter (Zhaawanong), legal and mediation

services, housing support and homelessness prevention.

In January, Bonnie McNichol and I visited the Atlohsa Store, located at 240 Richmond Street (corner of



Richmond and Horton)
adjacent to the Labatt
Brewery. The store carries a
wide selection of gift items
such as jewellery, clothing (orange
shirts and hoodies), art, books, coffee
mugs, etc. all crafted by Indigenous
artisans.

Committee was very pleased that Calvary raised \$4,395.00!

A very sincere thank you to all who supported our Advent Project!

- Linda Baker, Outreach Committee

Hello from the London Community Chaplaincy

Rev. Pam noted that it has been a busy time during these past months at the Chaplaincy!
Over the Christmas period, the following activities were held:

- An Indoor Ornament Month
- Make a Gift for Your Teacher Night
- Toddler/Baby Christmas Memory printing "Mistletoes"
- Christmas hampers for 200 families were prepared, and Christmas Breakfast Kits for 150 single adults (at Simcoe and Dundas Streets) were distributed
- Christmas parades at both sites were held with a visit from Santa

• In January, the Chaplaincy held (twice weekly) "Grab and Go" Lunch (at both sites) until the return to school

In later news, Rev. Pam reported that the Chaplaincy had a fun winter with craft groups, outside sports, walking groups, International Women's Day celebrations, and a Chaplain's weekly breakfast. Rev. Pam extends a huge thank you to Calvary for the \$1,000 to help top up breakfast food items for March Break. This enabled the Chaplaincy to offer March Break Breakfast items to all families in need at both sites. During March

Break, library visits, picnics, teddy bear fun, scavenger hunts, movies, bowling, trampoline and park fun and learn-to-knit classes were also held. A tradition observed is the St. Patrick's Green Pancake Day Family Breakfast. The London Community Chaplaincy is very grateful for Calvary's support. At present, the Chaplaincy is gearing up for summer, and excited about the nice weather returning. The Chaplaincy is continuing its search for a full-time youth worker.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring! – Linda Baker, Outreach Committee























Keeping up with the Rajeh & Al Kawarit Families

The Rajeh family

It's hard to believe that it has been six years since the Rajeh family arrived to Calvary's welcoming arms. Although many of us may feel that our lives have been on hold since the arrival of Covid, the Rajehs have had several major milestones during the last year.

Nariman, the mom, was finally able to return to Syria to visit her mother and extended family. She left shortly before Thanksgiving and returned in mid-December. It was a joyous reunion and we were thrilled when Hadel visited us to share the video of her mom's arrival.

Hassan, the dad, continues to work at the Toyota plant in Woodstock. He experienced shortened shifts due to part shortages but was able to work through most of Covid.

Son Hazem has been studying engineering at Fanshawe and was recently accepted into a General Engineering



program at the University of Windsor. He and his family are thrilled that he is will soon start his university studies.

Hadel is completing her double major degree at Western. She will graduate this spring with a degree in Business and Accounting. Her happiest news is that last month she became engaged to, in her words "my best"

friend!" He has another year before graduating. They will have an engagement party in the summer and will be married after he graduates next year. When I asked Hadel if I could share her picture with the church. She said "Of course, we are all family!"

Phil and I look forward to resuming our visits to play cribbage and Scrabble with Nariman and Hassan as we say goodbye to Covid!

The Al Kawarit family

The Al Kawarit family have also seen many milestones during the last two years. Ahmed (father and grandfather), Kahlid and Moustafa all received their Canadian Citizenships. In the picture Ahmed is on the right, Khalid is bottom left and Moustafa on the top left.

Before Covid, Yassar, another son of Ahmed and

Amal's was able to join the family from Indonesia. In 2020, he and Mouhamad had a double wedding. Today they are both proud fathers. Their son and daughter are riding double on the toy in the picture.

Yousef and Rim were blessed with a new baby girl last month. Her name is Sham. She is the focal point of the picture with her brothers Nizar and Ahmed and sister Noor. I am sure that is a very busy household!



Yousef's flooring company has been kept busy through Covid and he and Rim are enjoying their own home, just blocks away from Amal and Ahmed.

- Julie Downes





It was a sunny but cold and windy Wednesday...

ongratulations to Ruth Johnson and George Kreiger, married on January 5th, 2022.

It was a sunny but cold and windy Wednesday morning at St John the Divine RC Church on Base Line Road West where Rev. Kerry co-officiated with Fr. Michael Bechard, presiding. Due to COVID protocols only a few family members and close friends were in attendance.

Ruth and George met while on a senior's bus trip to Newfoundland in July 2019. They both glanced at each other on the trip, but thought nothing more of those glances until they met up again at the Wonderland Gardens Sunday afternoon concerts in the fall of 2019.

Congratulation to Ruth and George on the Occasion of Their Wedding!

Ruth Johnson and George Kreiger field the knot on Wednesday, January S. 202 at St. John the Divine Church in London.

The couple, seen here in the narther of the Church, exchanged wedding vow with immediate members of the family present.

Fr. Michael presided at the family present an amazing homily on love, but also sang during part of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony. Word has it that he intends of the ceremony.

Their glances were more intense, and they started

to meet over coffee and then COVID happened. Their love had blossomed and they decided, with their respective families' blessings, to be married.

Not only did Rev. Kerry deliver an amazing message on love (as described in the Knights of Columbus newsletter), he also sang during the signing of the register.

Calvary United extends its best wishes and congratulations to Ruth and George for many happy years together.

Calvary United Church Visioning Report Update

In 2018/2019, a Visioning Team of members: Kristen Goodman, Steve Hebden, Susan Huston, Mary Kannakko, Marg LaRocque, Brian and Bonnie McNichol, Leigh Nelligan, the Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui and the Rev. Anne Beattie-Stokes, completed a community round table and congregational asset mapping activity. The results of these endeavours were summarized in the 2019 Annual Report on page 12. Five potential projects were decided upon, some were instituted, and others needed more leadership, organization, and investigation.

The table below is to refresh your memories and report on the status/progress of each project to-date.

Project	Progress	Status
Environmental Action	Composting program expanded in May 2019 with collection buckets in the kitchen and 2 rotating drum composters in the green space. Previously, compostable materials were collected in buckets in the kitchen and taken to home compost piles by a few Calvary members.	Educational component not yet initiated and onsite composting halted because the appropriate ratio of compostable materials wasn't available ("green" and "brown" materials). New initiatives have begun with the birth of the Calvary Green Team which include construction of naturalized pollinator gardens, expanded recycling and greening suggestions in the weekly church emails and on the website.
Expansion of Seniors Programming	Looking at ways to advertise this to the surrounding community.	A grant has been approved to help fund Creative Hands And Minds Program In Our Neighbourhood (CHAMPION) for participation of seniors. Launch date set for March 9, 2022.
Preparation of Food for Sale	Likely would be mostly frozen items.	Due to distancing protocols, this project has not got off the ground yet except for food prep for the bazaar.
Study Space for Young People	Logistics of providing this space is being investigated.	Preventative pandemic protocols need to be relaxed and the issue of liability and strong wifi signal needs to be investigated.
Maximize the use of the building's spaces for use by us and other organizations	A room/space availability assessment has been completed.	Sanctuary and music room being rented by Amabile for practices, renovation of youth centre completed and a craft room has been created.

Other Ideas That Materialized

Arts Hub

Space used as studios for artists, writing and poetry groups, instrumental music program, others arts and crafts classes.

Community Centre

Before-school breakfast program, community kitchen, warming site for disadvantaged, drop in centre.

Wellness Well

Run activities that promote wellness in body, mind, emotions and spirit: some examples being: walking, wellness workshops, companionship activities, music therapy, healthy eating and cooking.

- Brian McNichol, Visioning Team