

CALVARY Catalyst

EASTER 2023



CHAMPION held two painting workshops recently. Ruthanne McLagan provided excellent instruction which resulted in everyone bringing home an original work of art!

SIGNS OF JOY & HOPE

This time of year brings a certain type of joy and hope to my daily experience. It is a joy to step into the garden and witness a robin trying to drink from my pond's waterfall as the water cascades into the pond and other birds join it in finding refreshment. There is joy in witnessing the crocus that have appeared just after the snowdrops were making a wonderful showing. Then I witness the buds on the bushes and trees have just started to appear in colour and fuzziness. These are sure signs of spring and the changing of the seasons is upon us once again. Yes, we sometimes have to sweep or shovel the white stuff off our sidewalks and driveways; however we then witness the melting of the snow piles; we know that a new day, a day of rejoicing is just around the corner.



It is like that for me, and I hope for you, when we know that Easter is approaching. The stories we read or hear from scripture that tell us of the wonder of Jesus and his disciples as they approach Jerusalem. There is joy, wonder, mystery, and revelation in the Easter story for us as well. From the waving of Palms as Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the preparation and sharing of the last supper on Maundy Thursday, to the trial and the cross of Good Friday that will lead us to the majesty of Easter Sunday – *He is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Alleluia.*

In the celebration and the reflection of what the Easter story means to each of us we remember that we are Easter people. We rejoice that the stone was rolled away and He is not there. If it were not for the women on that first

Easter day, the proclamation of He is Risen would never be said or sung. Every day is truly a glorious day to remember and rejoice that He is our risen Saviour. Jesus died, is risen, and we are His people.

In our following the One who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6), we live out the promises made for us at the time of our baptism and reaffirmed at the time of our confirmation. We follow by loving our neighbours, by reaching out to others in His name so they too may find refreshment, that they may experience a new way of living – to experience the empty tomb and the hope of the resurrection for our daily living.

May Easter time and throughout the season of spring be for us a new way of experiencing the risen Christ, a time of joy and hope. Just as the robin drinks from the water, may we find the water of new life, given for us. *Alleluia, He is Risen!*

Many blessings for a Happy Easter,
– Rev. Kerry

Easter Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday/Communion – April 2nd, 10:30 am

Jazz Vespers – April 5, 7:00 pm Calvary U.C.

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 7:00 pm at Calvary with White Oaks U.C.
(symbolic hand washing and communion)

Good Friday – April 7, 10:30 am Ecumenical Worship Service
at Redeemer Lutheran, 1 Frank Place

Easter Sunday – April 9, 10:30 am

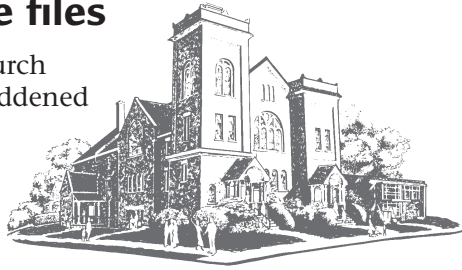
“He is risen; He is not there.” ~ Mark 16:6

From the office files

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

Robert Kennedy

Rev. Beth Chapman



Financial Support for Pursuing Post-Secondary School Education

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.

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

– *Wally Robinson*

FundScript order dates

March 19, April 2, 16 & 30, May 14 & 28, June 11 & 25. And yes, the program will continue with orders every other week throughout the summer.

JAZZ VESPERS
"Lift High the Cross"
Wed. Apr. 5th at 7:00 pm
Calvary United Church
290 Ridout St. South at Garfield
(Enter by the parking lot door)
With musicians
Stephen Holowitz,
Ken McLagan,
Larry Ernewein,
Sandy MacKay,
minister & vocalist
Kerry Stover
FREEWILL OFFERING IS APPRECIATED • ENTER PARKING LOT FROM RIDOUT ST.
More info call 519-434-5526 or www.calvaryuc.ca

CALVARY 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:
Tuesday, June 6th, 2023.

Send submissions to Bruce Jones: scouterbruce@rogers.com

Calvary United Church

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I see England, I see France, London needs our underpants!



It's Undie Sunday time again. When I called Mission Services this week they were thrilled to hear that we were doing it again. They thanked us for our faithfulness with this project. Their stock is quite low.

She mentioned that sizes Medium and Large are the most commonly needed sizes, boxers for men/boys and that there are plenty of children needing underwear too. They have a real need for travel size men's deodorant as well.

If you're wanting to do your own purchasing, please do so. Drop off is Mother's Day and the weekend following. We learned during Covid restraints that pooling our donation money allowed us a discount at a nearby store, so if you would prefer to give me a cheque, cash or e-transfer me, krisgoodman@live.ca, I will try for the biggest benefit I can find.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support for this project, meeting individuals' basic needs.

– *Kristen Goodman*

SPRINGTIME AGAIN

The world's been asleep
For four long months
But now it seems
Like it's waking up

'Cause it's dark in the morning
But it's bright at night
And blue birds are singing
In cloud filled sky

And if you ask me why I'm humming
I'll tell you why
It's springtime again

And the snow is all but melted
and the ice is gone
and there's dandelions blooming
on my green grass lawn

and it seems the whole wide world
is singing along
'cause it's springtime again

– Heather

C.H.A.M.P.I.O.N.

It was a year ago that we started CHAMPION as a seniors' group for Calvary, but also for our neighbourhood. We were able to obtain a federal government grant from The New Horizon's Programme. With the grant money, we were able to purchase sewing machines, tables, chairs, art supplies, sewing notions, a small refrigerator for the 4th floor and other items. We hope to purchase equipment for pickleball so that we can eventually offer pickleball to our members in the lower hall.

So far, we have made approximately 150 bedrolls from sheets and blankets that were generously donated by the congregation. These bedrolls have gone to Ark Aid and Project Hope for the homeless people in our community.

One of our CHAMPION members is knowledgeable about bonsai plants and several of us were able to start growing our plants to hopefully develop them into bonsai plants. He has done a couple of clinics to help us prune and fertilize them.

Ruthanne McLagan, using her artistic and teaching talents, presented a watercolour painting session last Spring and an acrylic painting session this winter. Both were well received by our members. We plan to have more sessions this year.

A guest speaker is planned for once a month. Past guests have presented information on environmental and recycling issues, mental health counselling, a slide show of a trip to Iceland, and a cat rescue centre. We hope to hear more about Calvary's pollinator gardens, possibly another travel slide show and other interesting topics.

Kristen Goodman and a friend delivered CHAMPION flyers to a few streets close by. Through this delivery of flyers, we have some new members who live in the neighbourhood and are weekly participants. There is an average of 15 people weekly who come out to play cards, make bedrolls (either putting them together or knotting them together) or just socialize with each other every Wednesday afternoon between 1:00 and 3:30 pm. Coffee, tea, and sweets are provided as a snack and all people 55 years of age and older are welcome to join us.

– Mary Kannakko



MUSICAL HAPPENINGS AT CALVARY



The calm before the storm...



Warming up... Music Sunday Service rehearsal.



Jazz Vespers...when the Saints go MARCHing in...



Denise Pelley was the vocalist at the December Jazz Vespers.



Rev. Kerry's singing of Danny Boy was awesome.



From the Affirming ad hoc committee

On Sunday, February 12 the Affirming ad hoc committee hosted an after-church movie in the parlour.

We chose the film, *Green Book*, because February is Black History Month and the script addresses discrimination against people of colour and people of gay sexual-orientation.

In case you have not seen this film, please know that the members of the committee, and all who viewed the film on February 12, recommend it to you. *Green Book* is a comedy-drama film that won Best Picture at the 2019 Academy Awards. The film stars Mahershala Ali, who won the best actor Academy award, and Viggo Mortensen. The film is based on the real story of Tony Vallelonga the Italian-American bouncer who became a driver for the Jamaican-American pianist Don Shirley during his performance tour of the Deep South in 1962.

Individual racial prejudice and regional-society discrimination against race and sexual-orientation are main themes. The script is based on a book by the driver's son and a travel guidebook, *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. The differences between Tony and Don are central to the comic relief of the film. The men have opposite personalities, living by very different moral codes and lifestyles. As the film progresses, these differences become the substance of their friendship, allowing them to find commonality and mutual respect of their unique talents. One of the film's most profound lines is: "It takes courage to change people's hearts." Through the lens of the driver and his boss' friendship, the audience sees many perspectives on respect and equality.



On Sunday, March 26, the film *On the Basis of Sex* was selected since March is International Women's Month.

On the Basis of Sex is a 2018 drama film based on the legal life of Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was the second woman to ever retain the position. The movie stars Felicity Jones as Ginsburg, and was directed by Mimi Leder. The main aim of the movie is to highlight the unfair discrimination faced by both men and women simply on the basis of their sex. The movie explores the real-life case of *Moritz v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue* (1972), which saw Charles Moritz denied a tax deduction for the nursing



care for his elderly mother while he worked, because he was not "a woman, a widower or divorcée, or a husband whose wife is incapacitated or institutionalized (section 214)." The opposition to sex discrimination in this case drew attention to many America's gender-based laws and social assumptions. The supportive relationships of Ginsberg's husband and daughter affirm Ginsberg's right to pursue her career as a lawyer in the controversial case. An important moment in the film is when a governor tells Ginsberg that the word "woman" does not appear in the constitution, in an attempt to discredit her, and Ginsberg responds that the word "freedom" also doesn't appear in the constitution, which shows his argument is flawed. This is another film we recommend to people who have not seen it.

If you have any questions about the films and the topics they include please contact one of the committee members: Bill Butt, Mary Kannakko, Kathie Leigh, Jill Lucas, Kathleen Rainey-Meatherall or Ruthanne McLagan.

CALVARY HAPPENINGS



On December 21st, CHAMPION had its first ever Christmas party with lots of fun of games including the visit of three elves – one of whom was our own Ruthanne.

Thanks from the Outreach Committee

The Outreach committee would like to thank the congregation for their incredible generosity during the Christmas season last year.

The amount of non-perishable items for the London Community Chaplaincy's food pantry (Southdale location) was spectacular! The coat and winter clothing drive for Ark Aid Mission gathered 25-30 large bags full of clothes for our city's most vulnerable. The Advent project in 2022 raised \$2,965 for YOU (Youth Opportunities Unlimited) which helps support many of London's youth.

This year's Lenten project was in support of Life Spin. Life Spin is a non-profit organization, located in London, whose motto is: "building community foundations for self reliance." One of the supports that Life Spin offers to vulnerable people in London is a free store where registered clients can shop for clothes and household items at no cost. Thanks to all of you who have donated clean, gently used, spring and summer clothes, as well as towels to Life Spin, helping Londoners in need.

Calvary's continued generosity is greatly appreciated by the Outreach committee and the wider community!

– Bonnie McNichol & Karen Butt



First delivery of donations from Calvary's Lenten project went to Life Spin on March 15 and the van was packed to the brim! Thank you to Bonnie and Karen for dropping the items off.



The Outreach Committee made soup for the lunch following the Calvary Annual Meeting.



Sorting & Smiling... on December 7, members of the Outreach Committee got together to sort the clothes donated for Ark Aid. There were numerous bags of clothing for men, women and children thanks to the generosity of the Calvary community.

Special delivery!

Thanks to the hard work of CHAMPION, bedrolls are regularly being delivered to Ark Aid to help those in need.

On February 15, Katy and Brian loaded up 11 bedrolls for Ruthanne to drop off. On December 21, Ruthanne delivered more bedrolls with the help of Rev. Kerry.





UCW News

For the past three UCW meetings, Ruthanne McLagan has been presenting the history of Calvary's stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. Some members connect to the meetings with Zoom.

The most recent session focused on the stained glass windows of the west wall and stairwells. All were welcome (including men) to attend these events which were followed by snacks in the Parlour. If you were not able to attend, Ruthanne has created a video for each presentation which can be found on Calvary's website at: <https://www.calvaryuc.ca/stained-glass-windows>.

Calvary Green News

EARTHFEST 2023

- Saturday, April 22, 12-5pm at three locations: Citi Plaza, Central Library and Dundas Place.
- **Earth Day** unites millions of people around the world to inspire action to protect our planet against future climate change. Food, speakers, music and many exhibitors will be at all locations. Learn about all the environmental work, wins and potential our community has, as we look to make London one of the greenest, most resilient cities in Canada.
- Come celebrate our Beautiful Earth.
- Stop by the Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) booth and say "hello." Faith communities (Calvary too) will be sharing their 'greening experiences.'

Westminster Ponds Annual NATIVE PLANT SALE is on!

- March 1 - May 13. Pick up May 27. Native plants provide food and habitat to local pollinators, insects, birds and other wildlife. They are well suited to our climate/soils and require less care watering, fertilizing and pest control compared to other exotic garden plants... and they make for beautiful, climate-friendly, water-wise gardens.
- This sale is a fundraiser for many London Environmental Groups.
- Order early. Don't be disappointed.
- www.westminsterpondscentre.ca/event/native-plant-sale-2023

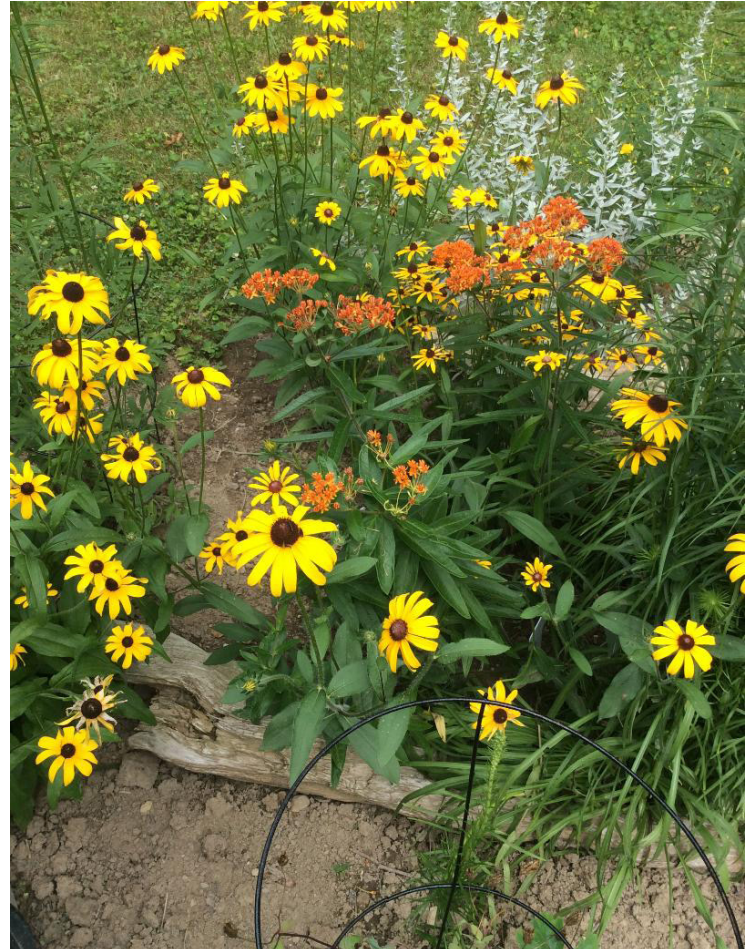
London THING Library.

- Check out their full catalogue. (thinglibrary.ca)
- Save money, reduce waste from rarely used tools: borrow instead.
- Located at 206 Piccadilly Street at Reimagine Co. 519-520-3392



REPAIR Cafe

- Fix your broken things for free with their team of volunteer 'fixers', check public libraries for 'fixit times.'
- Will be on site at London's Central Library, Earth Day, April 22.



ALSO...

Although Spring is calling don't pick up those rakes too soon. Let the grass dry out well, start to green up and sprout new.

Here at Calvary, we are planning a small extension of our front garden with lots of pollinators, ready to be separated. Looking forward to your continuing support!

Our new Calvary Green bulletin board will be up soon in the annex hallway. Look for notices and pictures. We also have a suggestion envelope for your questions and ideas.

– Lyse Geldard



**FOR THE LOVE
OF CREATION**

Greetings from the London Community Chaplaincy

It has been a busy time at the Chaplaincy!

Rev. Pam advised:

- The Chaplaincy is trying to embrace winter outdoor play time by offering ringette, hockey, snowshoeing, sledding and skating.
- There are weekly skating outings for youth at Victoria Park.
- LCC had a mitten/hat giveaway with donations from London churches including Calvary. This was very much appreciated!
- Indoor activities include weekly craft sessions, violin, baking and youth groups.
- Other activities offered are weekly breakfast gatherings as well as pre-school story time at the London Public Library.
- Rides have been offered to the food bank and to monthly fresh produce give-aways.
- Care packages have been delivered to all students studying for exams.

The Chaplaincy greatly appreciates your support and generosity! Thank you very much!

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and Spring!

—Linda Baker, Outreach Committee



The Chaplaincy says thanks Calvary for your support and generosity!



Winter fun!



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.



International ladies day lunch. (Calvary let us use space)