

# Calvary

## Episcopal Church

1615 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach, FL  
727-595-2374 ✉ [www.calvaryirb.org](http://www.calvaryirb.org)  
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Member of The Protestant Episcopal  
Church of the United States (TEC) & The  
Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

# The Crier

December 2015  
Monthly Newsletter

"TO KNOW CHRIST....  
AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN."

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## Collect for Christmas

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## Rebirth

Every year we anticipate the nativity scene of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Some hold this tradition as a remembrance, a keepsake, but it is so much more. We are visited by a real presence and there is a rebirth.

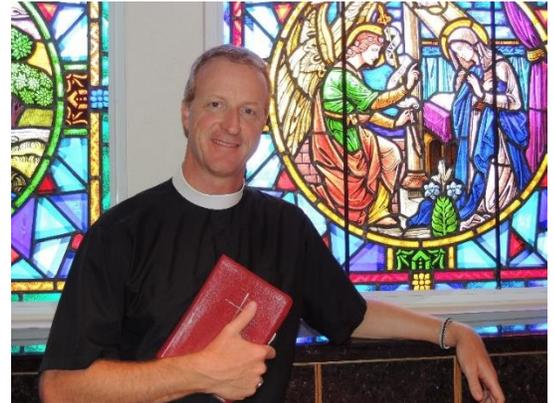
Reflecting on last year's Christmas Eve services brings me both a grin to my face and a tear to my eye. Do you remember the downpour of rain as we sang, "Silent Night, Holy Night?" All was not calm and all did not seem bright with thunder all around as we huddled inside to worship; and we shall not forget the leak in the roof at that time which came through and dripped precisely on the baby in the manger, of all places! A garbage can was strategically placed beside the creche to catch each drip. It got even better at the Candlelight service as the incense set off the

fire alarm. The automated alarm chirped and the, "Warning, warning, evacuate the building" message blared as we sang, the opening hymn. In spite of all these unexpected happenings, I recalled, at communion, a real presence of the Holy Spirit bringing a sense of peace and a rebirth. Where will be the excitement this year, you may wonder? O come and see Emmanuel once again at Calvary. We need to remember that when Jesus was born, love came down and was seen by

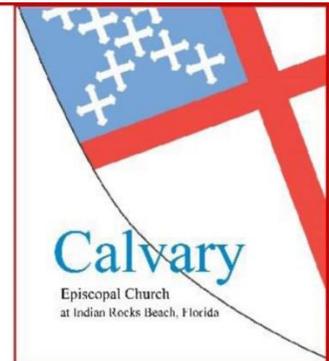
angels, shepherds, livestock and a few wise men two weeks later, however, many were surprised. Let us not keep this surprise a secret. There are many people around us who need the joy that comes from being born again in Christ Jesus. The Christmastide season, following Advent, is a time of rebirth.

Whenever we open our hearts to Jesus, something is conceived and grows inside us. At the manger scene, you will be able to find and experience the hope, joy, and love which came down from heaven. As much as we plan, we are never prepared for the thunder and dripping of life's surprises, the warnings to stop and evacuate our own will, when God calls us to trust in Him and journey into something new. I suspect Jesus conceived the Church as his baby and each of us therein. This was what he conceived within his disciples. Individually and as a family, we go through the birthpangs before we can experience these true feelings during Christmas. How can the Church be born if hope, joy and love are not firmly conceived in its members? This Christmas, take the opportunity to allow the love of Christ to grow inside you. Prepare for a real presence, not simply a remembrance. Expect more than a manger scene. With sure confidence, expect a rebirth.

Yours, faithfully in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
Father Jon

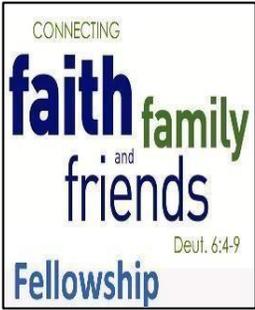
**The Musical of the Year**  
**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 3PM**  
 Calvary Episcopal Church  
 1615 First St.  
 Indian Rocks Beach, FL



[www.calvaryirb.org](http://www.calvaryirb.org)  
 727/595-2374

## Our Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	Children's Pageant	4:30pm December 24 <sup>th</sup>
	Candlelight Service	9:00pm December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas Day	Holy Eucharist	11am December 25 <sup>th</sup>
Epiphany	Holy Eucharist	6pm January 6 <sup>th</sup>



## Fellowship

### **“The Christmas Mission Across America” Musical**

We need all cast members and band members of the musical to attend the remaining rehearsals before our showing on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The following rehearsals for “The Christmas Mission Across America,” will be Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9, 16<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm. Dinner will not be served these Wednesdays.

Everyone in our Church should make every attempt to attend as a show of support for our youth who have been practicing so hard on their lines, their music and stage production. Invite everyone you can. Admission is \$5. Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, please have your children dressed in black pants, a colored T-shirt with NO DESIGN/PLAIN, and close-toed shoes.

**Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm Rehearsal musicians & agents.**

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> is the Final Dress Rehearsal 6-8pm**

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>:

10am Church & Walk through

1pm Call time

3pm Musical begins



### **November Yard & Bake Sales**

We would like to thank all the members of Calvary and their “friends” who assisted in this year’s yard and bake sales. Over \$2,000 was raised for the Yard Sale, proceeds going to offset our expenses in Hospitality and ~\$300 was raised from the Bake Sale, proceeds going to assist the efforts of the Altar Guild. These fundraising efforts are so helpful and necessary for our Church to operate.



## **IRB Rotary – Superbowl Raffle Invitation**

Please join us for a party at the IRB Rotary's 13th Annual Super Bowl Raffle, Grand Prize Drawing. It will be a fun afternoon of football, complimentary appetizers, food and drink specials and the excitement of our Grand Prize drawing.

The Grand Prize drawing party will be held at Slyce Pizza, 311 Gulf Blvd, IRB, on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm at which time, this year's winners will be determined.

There will be three prizes awarded again this year with the Grand Prize being two tickets to the 'Golden 50<sup>th</sup>' playing of the Super Bowl at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, CA on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, four (4) nights lodging at the Marriott Hotel in Pleasanton, Ca and \$1000 cash. Second prize is \$1000 cash and third prize is \$500 cash. Your opportunity to be one of the winners can only happen if you purchase our raffle chances. Chances are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased from church members David Kline (727-418-1673) ([kline22@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kline22@tampabay.rr.com)) or Claire English (727-560-2368).

Your support of the Super Bowl Raffle, Rocktoberfest, Pancake Breakfast and Art & Ale, allows our Rotary club to support the local, national and global good works of Rotary International as well as a number of non-Rotary charities, most notably Calvary's **Beach Community Food Pantry**.

We also support many other projects as well:

- Rotary International's flagship initiative to globally eliminate Polio, Polio Plus
- Rotary's Dictionary Project for the third grade students of 5 local elementary schools
- The John J. Todia III Endowment and the Art & Music Scholarship Program
- Rotary Camp Florida
- Beach Art Center Kids Art Program
- Habitat for Humanity
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Meals (with Publix & Pinellas Sheriff's Office)
- Pinellas Education Foundation
- Ridgecrest YMCA
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Rotary's Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders

**See you on December 13<sup>th</sup>!!**

## **Hospitality Report**

By the time you read this the "yard sale" will be but a memory. We hope for good weather and that everyone's donated "treasures" will be given a good home. Kim and Julie Heinicka have graciously offered to chair this event in the future - thank you both for your help this year. Harvey and I are still searching for another team to set up Sunday morning coffee hour; if you enjoy coffee and fellowship after Mass, then take your turn and give some of your time to cater to your fellow parishioners.

As "keepers of the kitchen" Cynthia and I are dismayed that so many items have gone missing. Church members should feel comfortable asking to borrow items, but they must be returned and/or replaced. If you use a caterer for a function, please make sure that no serving pieces, platters, tablecloths etc. leave with them when they do. All items should be washed, dried and put away properly goes without saying.

There is a recycling bin in the hallway from the reception area to the parish hall - it can be used for plastic bottles, cans etc. (all rinsed clean of course) as well as paper. It's worth the walk to know that you are doing your part to help with this effort.

We look forward to seeing our snowbirds back in church to share the Christmas season. See you Sunday - from Susan Brillat for Hospitality

## Innocence is priceless

One Sunday morning, the priest noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Father," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Father, what is this?" he asked the priest. The priest said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 8am or the 10am?"

Submitted by David Hillegas



## The Annual Jolly Trolley

Join us for the Indian Rocks Holiday Parade

Sunday, December 6th. Lunch will be served in Parish Hall after the 10 a.m. service.

## Christmas COOKIE decorating!

Saturday, December 12th at 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m

All youth are invited to decorate cookies. There will be plenty of icing and sprinkles. Bring your rolling pins. Parents are welcome too. RSVP through Sign Up Genius



## Christian Education

### Cursillo – What is the Cursillo Movement?

The Cursillo Movement consists of proclaiming the best news: God, in Christ, loves us!!! A literal translation is "A Short Course in Christianity". Cursillo is not just a word - it is a way of life. Attending a Cursillo weekend is a life-changing experience, a spiritual renewal, one that you will never forget. The next weekend will be in February and I encourage each of you to consider attending. Judy Marx will be serving on the team and she, or any of the Calvary Cursillistas, will be happy to

answer any questions you may have. Pray about it - it just may be the weekend for you!!

Marilyn Clark, Cursillo Liaison

## Calendars

Calendars for 2016 are now available at the front desk. A \$1 donation is requested per calendar.

Also, do not forget that we supply weekly devotions in our Narthex and Forward Day-by-day publications for your enjoyment. All publications are provided by the Church and through gracious donations made by our members.



## Leadership

### Christmas Thanks

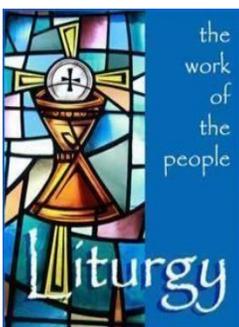
We are most blessed to have our Fr. Jon, Laurie and Matthew, who faithfully serve at Calvary as our Rector, Parish Administrator and Music Director. This year, take the time to include them in your Christmas prayers, send them a Christmas card, give them a gift, or simply tell them in person how much you love them. These kind words and actions go a long way.

## Vestry Ballot

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day we will receive nominations for next year's Vestry. All nominees must be a member in good standing with the Church (attendance), a minimum of 18 years old, and giver of record. Commitments to the Vestry include nine monthly meetings in the evening, the Vestry retreat, serving on one of our "Commissions" and assisting in the safekeeping of Calvary. A standard term is three years serving on a 12-member Vestry. A positive attitude and ability to be a team player are also necessary. All interested in becoming a member of the Vestry should inquire with Fr. Jon, Judy Marx, Cynthia Laitenen or Julie Heinicka (The Nominating Committee) by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Calvary Bylaws

The Vestry set a goal to revise our bylaws this year. The revisions will be published on our website in January and presented to the parish for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. All of the Vestry minutes are recorded, approved and published on our website.



## Worship

### Youth Sunday, December 13th

Youth are encouraged to participate in both of the services.

### "Did You Know"

Here are some more "Frequently Asked Questions" about the Episcopal Church. Hopefully these will be helpful to you. If anyone has a question you would like to have answered, please contact Judy Marx at [jmarx9450@aol.com](mailto:jmarx9450@aol.com) or 596-3014 and I will try to find the answer for you.

Q. Why is there so much getting up and down during the services?

A. The Episcopal Church is well known for its physical as well as its oral worship of God. Generally speaking, we kneel or stand to pray, stand for hymns, the creed, and the reading of the Gospel, and sit for instruction. We believe our physical attitude can influence our mental and emotional attitudes so that we may worship more easily.

Q. Why does the congregation say "amen" at the end of prayers?

A. The word "amen" literally means "so be it" or more casually, "Yes, I agree with that, and I offer that as my prayer too." When we answer "amen" at the end of prayers, we are simply saying that the prayer was our prayer as well as the prayer of the one who uttered it.

Q. Why do members of the congregation bow their heads at the name of Jesus in the creeds?

A. As a sign of respect for our Lord. This sign goes back to the New Testament itself. St. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow." (Philippians 2:10)

Q. Why does the congregation stand for the reading of the Gospel?

A. The Gospel is composed primarily of the words of Jesus himself. Out of respect for our Lord and the good news he brought us, we stand.

Q. Why do many in the congregation cross themselves at various places in the service?

A. The sign of the cross was originally used as a mark of identification as Christians. It was probably first used at baptism on the foreheads of those being baptized to mark them as "Christ's own forever" (Book of Common Prayer, "Holy Baptism," p. 308). It still has that significance today, and in the baptismal service the Prayer Book directs the baptizer to mark the baptized one with the sign of the cross. However, over the centuries other meanings have been attached to the sign. (1) It may be a silent prayer. (2) It may mean that the Christian acknowledges receipt of the sacrament or of a blessing of some sort. (3) It may be an acknowledgement of the Holy Trinity. (4) It may be used as a reminder of the Christian's baptism, thereby reminding the person that he/she is indeed a Christian and must behave in a Christian manner. The sign may have other uses as well; but however it is used, it is important that it be used in a reverent and prayerful manner

Q. Why do many in the congregation bow as the cross passes them in procession?

A. Just as the altar is a symbol of our Lord's sacrifice, so is the cross. If we are Christians, we may "salute" the cross as Americans would "salute" our national flag when it passes by.

Judy Marx, Worship Chair

[Jmarx9450@aol.com](mailto:Jmarx9450@aol.com)

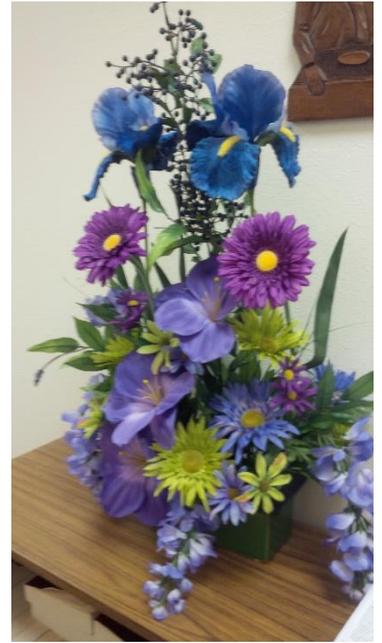
## **The Advent Wreath**

The season of Advent is a time for anticipation, hope and preparation. Here at Calvary it is also a time for the hanging of the green, decoration of the church with evergreen wreaths, boughs and trees that help symbolize the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus Christ.

The Altar Guild shares annually information on one of the symbols placed in the sanctuary during this time, the Advent Wreath. It is a circular wreath holding five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of new beginnings, or renewal of eternal life. The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles are blue and represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent. Many churches use purple and rose candles, while others use all white. We follow the custom of blue with that colors association with royalty/ the coming of the Kingdom of God. These candles also symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

The light of the candles is very important. It reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world and he comes into our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others. The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lighted over the four week period of Advent we are reminded that the darkness of fear and hopelessness are receding and the shadows of sin are falling away as more and more light is shed into the world. When the Christ candle, located in the center of the wreath is lighted on Christmas Eve, we rejoice in the fact that the promise of long ago has been realized.

Cathy Athanson for the Altar Guild



The Advent/Lenten flowers were created and donated by Mrs. Dodie Spahr. We are so blessed to have these flowers and extend a warm thankyou to Dodie for her loving contribution.

## *The Legend of the Candy Cane*

*Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy at Christmas time that would serve as a witness to his Christian faith.*

*He wanted to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; hard to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church; firmness to represent the promise of God.*

*The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. He thought it could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which he reached down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.*

*Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received, by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life. Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time.*

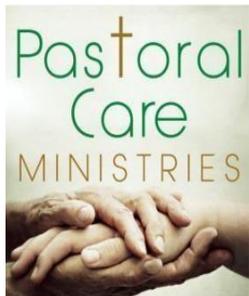
*But the true meaning is still there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.*



# Pastoral Care

## **“Sit and Be Fit” Exercise**

This class is specifically designed for those of us who now look in the mirror and see silver hair (or no hair) and those beautiful smile wrinkles. It is low impact and we concentrate on proper breathing, good posture, oiling the joints (some of them do creak), and gaining strength and flexibility. If you are looking for something fun and at the same time healthy, stop by the Parish Hall on Tuesday morning at 10:15. You just may want to join in the fun. Stop being a couch potato and get in the action - you may be surprised how good you feel. For questions call me at 517-4071 or email [happyclark@aol.com](mailto:happyclark@aol.com). Marilyn Clark, Class Leader



## **Visitations**

All members of Calvary are encouraged to inform the office, Fr. Jon or Deacon Melissa whenever you have an upcoming medical procedure. We would very much like to include you in our prayers and provide pastoral care visitations by the clergy. We never know unless you tell us.



## Missions

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes**

By the time you read this Crier the shoe boxes will probably have been delivered to the Archdeacon at Day Spring for distribution. With the help of the ladies from St. Dunstons we decorated 125 boxes to be filled with gifts for the migrant children. I am confident that all of them will be filled by our faithful and generous

community. This has been an ongoing ministry for many years and provides Christmas gifts to children who might not otherwise receive any. On behalf of all those happy children, I thank you for your generosity.

Martha Kelley and Marilyn Clark

## **'Tis the Season...**

Christmas is quickly approaching. Our thoughts are drifting towards traditional dishes we will be preparing for family and friends and the many ingredients that we will buy in order to do so. As we begin to compose extensive grocery lists, others living in our community will wonder whether they will have food for their table on Christmas Day.

As we give thanks to God for our own bountiful harvest this Holiday Season, let us remember those who are less fortunate. Food Pantry volunteers work hard to help serve those in need, but we can't feed people without your continued help. The numbers of those that we feed have been reaching new heights each year. Once again, this year the number of patrons served has soared. We would appreciate your donations of money, food, and/or time to help the pantry. This Christmas let's give freely from our hearts so others may be thankful for the food on their tables.

The pantry provides a drastic contrast to our comfortable lives at home. People stand outside the doors sweating in the hot Florida sun waiting to select their food. While some people walk, others ride bikes or take the bus, and those fortunate enough to have a car create carpools to pick up those in need of a ride to acquire food. Are you aware that there are people residing in our area that do not have shelter or the use of a hot shower? There are others who do not have a can opener to open the food that they receive from the Food Pantry! After finishing their morning shopping at the Beach

Community Food Pantry each of our patrons will leave carrying two bags of groceries, a can opener if needed, sometimes soap or shampoo but most importantly a renewed spirit.

Singer and songwriter Willy Nelson grew up as a child in a home where food was scarce and presents did not appear. He composed a carol, Pretty Paper, which was sung by Roy Orbison in the early 1960's. The carol tells the tale of Christmas shoppers, giddy with the glee, as they find that perfect gift for the one they love. The shoppers rush home to wrap their gifts while a less fortunate man is brought to tears. He sits by the street watching the rush and realizes that his loved ones will not have food to eat or pretty packages to open. Willy Nelson did not forget those days of lack in his life and would often take time to sit, talk and help people in need.

Arriving early in the morning to stock pantry shelves, we volunteers often feel disheartened as we view the minimal inventory in the storage room. We take the few remaining cases of vegetables and fruit and partially restock pantry shelves. Sometimes, within the hour, due to the generous donations from church and community, food arrives and hungry families begin to shop.

The Pantry is open to any donations you may be willing to offer. Monetary and food donations are welcome. We try to stock canned fruit, vegetables, beans, soups, spaghetti sauce and peanut butter. We also carry pasta, rice, boxed potatoes, cereal and toilet paper. We try to have turkeys and stuffing mix for the Holidays. Perhaps you could find it in your heart to help.

The Beach Community Food Pantry is located at 1615 1st Street in Indian Rocks Beach. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-12. Donations of food, money and time are welcomed.

### **Christmas Holiday Meals**

At 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 Pinellas County Deputies assigned to the Community Policing Unit went out to deliver turkey dinners destined for dozens of families in need to homes in the Lealman, Highpoint, Ridgecrest and in North County neighborhoods. The project is an annual event which partners the Sheriff's Office, the Indian Rocks Beach Rotary Club, Calvary Episcopal Church, Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue and Publix for the purpose of reaching out and helping families who might not otherwise be able to afford a traditional meal this Thanksgiving Holiday.

Deputies with the Community Policing Unit have identified the families in need through their daily work in the community. The meal included a fully cooked turkey, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry-orange relish, marshmallow delight, two-cans of green beans, pumpkin pie, a loaf of white sliced bread, a jar of peanut butter, a box of Little Debbie oatmeal creme cakes, a gallon of iced tea, and a half-gallon of cranapple juice.

The various organizations donated the money raised to help with the purchase of the turkeys and all the trimmings. In all, 51 families will benefit from the generous contributions this year.

This is the twelfth year for the event, and the partnership between the organizations and was started by Mrs. Carol Beauchamp, a member of Calvary. The various organizations also partner to conduct similar events for Christmas and Easter. Calvary Episcopal Church's Holiday Meal Ministry is actively accepting donations. Feeding families in need is not just a holiday project for the church. Throughout the year the church continues their work through the Beach Community Food Pantry. The pantry is open every week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Calvary Episcopal Church. The pantry is always accepting monetary donations and all non-perishable food products to keep the pantry going. If anyone would like to help with holiday meals, or the food pantry, please contact the Calvary Episcopal Church at 727-595-2374.



## Christmas Flowers

Please make a generous donation for flowers and other decorations this Christmas and fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office on or before Monday December 14th with your check made payable to Calvary Episcopal Church and marked "For Christmas Flowers."

All forms received by December 14th will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletin. If any are received after this date, they will be acknowledged in the following week's bulletin.

Thank you!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the names & or special intentions as you wish them to appear in the Christmas bulletin:

In Thanksgiving For: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## Connections

Connect spiritually and socially using Black & White XP, Facebook & Yelp. Search for "Calvary Episcopal Church" Indian Rocks Beach, FL.



## Are you getting the Crier each month?

We strive to send out our information in a timely and efficient manner. If you have changed your email address, PLEASE let Laurie Lawther be aware, [llawther@calvaryirb.org](mailto:llawther@calvaryirb.org)

### Important Dates “At-a-Glance”

Tuesday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
	10:15 am	Sit and Be Fit
	11 am	Administrative Staff Meeting
Wednesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6 pm	Holy Eucharist
	7:15-8:30	Musical Rehearsal
Thursday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30 pm	Bells Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choral Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>		Fr. Jon Roberts 8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Priesthood
	9 am	IRFSA Ted Irwin Sailing Regatta
Sunday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	8/10 am	Holy Eucharist followed by Fellowship
	1 pm	Annual Calvary “Jolley Trolley”
Monday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Prayer Team Meeting
	6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
	10:15 am	Sit and Be Fit
	11 am	Administrative Staff Meeting
Wednesday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Holy Eucharist
	7:15-8:30	Musical Rehearsal
Thursday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Bells Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choral Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Youth Cookie Bake
	5 pm	Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	8/10 am	Holy Eucharist followed by Fellowship
Monday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
	6:30	Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
	10:15 am	Sit and Be Fit
	11 am	Administrative Staff Meeting
Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Sung Evensong & H.E.
	7:15-8:30	Musical Rehearsal
Thursday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Bells Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choral Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 20 <sup>nd</sup>	8/10am	Holy Eucharist followed by Fellowship
	<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>The “Christmas Mission Across America” Musical</b>
Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:30	The Bookies of Calvary
Tuesday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
	10:15 am	Sit and Be Fit
	11 am	Administrative Staff Meeting
Wednesday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00 pm	Sung Evensong & H.E.
Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Children's Pageant & H.E.
	6:30 pm	Bells Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choral Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight & H.E.
Friday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	8/10am	Holy Eucharist followed by Fellowship

Tuesday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Morning Prayer
	10:15 am	Sit and Be Fit
Wednesday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	Bells Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choral Choir Rehearsal

All liturgical events and only non-liturgical monthly events will be posted. All events of Calvary are included on the Church main calendar found on our website.

**December Birthdays**



- 3 – Condon Sutherland
- 4 – James Widell
- 6 – Scharf Turner
- 9 – Marla Huhman, Cathy Athanson, Loretta Scott, Cynthia Laitinen, Gretta Morash, Richard Sherman
- 10 – Garrett Fisher, Steve Small
- 12 – Robert Williams
- 14 – Ileana Okonkwo
- 15 – Patricia Call
- 17 – Grace Alford, Jacob Alford
- 20 – Caleb Bhagwandin
- 21 – Peter Thomas
- 22 – Lisa Kingston
- 23 – Deborah Whisenand
- 26 – Chuck Pond
- 28 – David Hillegas, Ray Norton

IF we missed your date or if there is need of correction, we apologize.

Please notify the office.

**Pinellas Suncoast F&R**



- 8 – Douglas Howard
- 13 – Chris Crowle, Ran London
- 16 – Karry Bell
- 21 – David Martin
- 30 – Robb Williams

**Wedding Anniversaries**

- 7 – Richard & Elizabeth Sherman
- 19 – David & Karen Hilegas
- 27 – Larry & Robin Hite



**Property**

**Digging Deep**

Thanks to the generosity of one of our newest members, Mr. Tom Monk, we have replaced the leaky section of our septic line located outside the west corner by our Food Pantry. Slaughter Plumbing sent "Chuck" (seen in the hole) to take out the section and replace with a new coupler. This was necessary to prevent the sewage backflow problem we have experienced on occasions.





## Stewardship

It is that time of year to seriously consider what "stewardship" means to us as Christians. But stewardship is a year-round commitment and, in actuality, is our pledge to God in thankfulness for His love and blessings to us. We are pledging to be good stewards for the gifts He has given to us - our time, our talents and our treasure. We must look back over the year and ensure that we have done just that; then we must look forward to the

coming year and determine if we can give more. Opportunities to strengthen our Church abound. Stewardship is an act of devotion to our Lord Jesus, accepting Him and inviting Him into one of the most private areas of our lives. We must remember, it is never "our" money or talents - "all things come of thee, Oh, Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."



Please fill out a pledge card - they can be found at each narthex and in the reception area - and drop it in the collection plate. Pledge cards are necessary for the Vestry to be able to determine a budget for the coming year. You will receive your 2015 statement by the end of January.

Marilyn Clark, Stewardship Committee

### Our Finance Committee

Every December, our Finance Committee has a big challenge that is most necessary for the operation of the Church. They are called to make a budget for our next year. "How does this happen," you may wonder. On the revenue side, a great deal is based on the number and amount that is "pledged" by our members or based on historical giving. On the expense side, they see what was spent last year and whether or not there are anticipated increases or decreases. There are many details involved and several hours spent on these calculations. When they finalize the budget, they present it to the Vestry for their approval and then it is presented to the congregation at our January Annual meeting where we all are called to approve. The budget will be made available at that time.

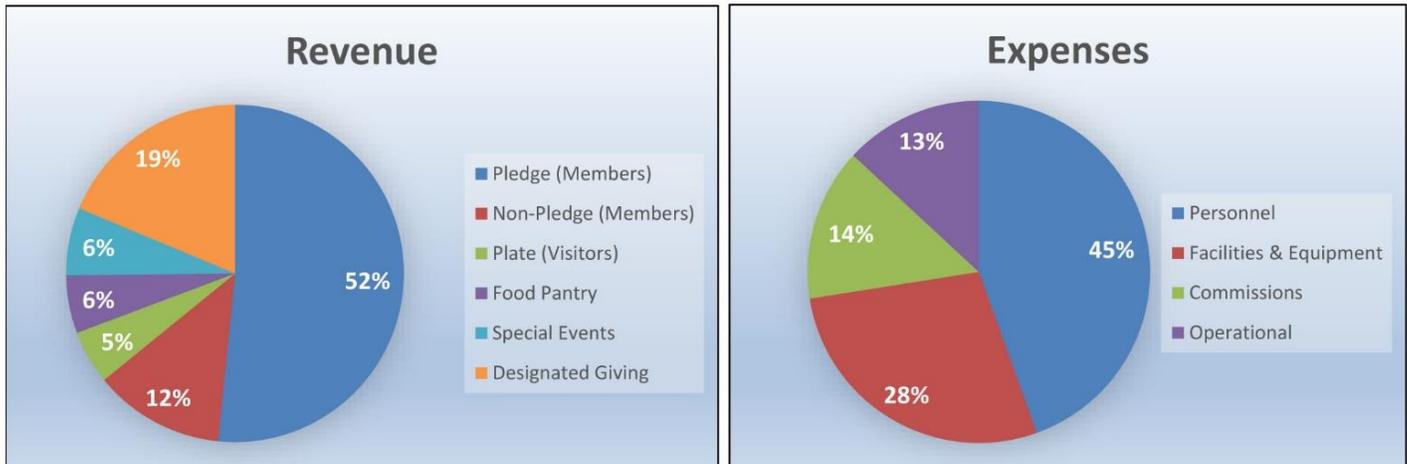
We thank the members of the Finance Committee: Maria Gonzalez, Keith Oeste, Greg Donham and Mike Alford. We thank our advisors, Betsey McKenna and Phil Beauchamp and we thank Laurie Lawther our Parish Administrator.

## General Financial Statement

(January-October 2015)

	Actual	Budget	Difference (+/-)
<b>Revenue</b>			
Pledge (Members)	135,440	141,660	-6,220
Non-Pledge (Members)	32,869	25,000	7,869
Plate (Visitors)	13,505	21,660	-8,155
Food Pantry	14,614	18,500	-3,886
Special Events	16,979	17,330	-351
Designated Giving	49,071	49,300	-229
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$262,478</b>	<b>\$273,450</b>	<b>-\$10,972</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	129,945	124,990	4,955
Facilities & Equipment	81,673	86,360	-4,687
Commissions	42,064	55,360	-13,296
Operational	38,212	40,830	-2,618
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$291,894</b>	<b>\$307,540</b>	<b>-\$15,646</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$29,416</b>	<b>-\$34,090</b>	<b>-\$4,674</b>

\*The 2015 Budget allotted \$30,000 of Revenue to come from an unrestricted investment fund to stabilize expenses for the year. Year-to-date, we have not made any withdrawal from this account but the records above indicate this will be necessary before the close of the year. Pledged income is most helpful to create and sustain our Church operation. Please fulfill your 2015 pledge. Please make a pledge during our Stewardship Campaign in December for year 2016.



### The Budget

The Pledge Card can be received when you arrive at Church (see sample card to the right). Those who are seasonal and have not yet returned, should have received via email or in regular mail. Please make a prayerful effort to submit your pledge this year for the operation of the Church.

Pledge cards can be brought up at the Doxology, during Advent at both the 8/10am Sunday Holy Eucharists. We will continue the invitation through Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

As we create the budget for 2016, your pledges are most helpful. If you have any questions regarding the budget please contact Laurie Lawther.

**Deadline for the January Crier: December 25th**  
**Please send all pictures and articles to us by then.**

**Calvary Episcopal Church**

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727-595-2374 calvaryirb.org

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Rector:	The Rev. Father Jon Roberts	(941)806-7232 <a href="mailto:Jroberts@calvaryirb.org">Jroberts@calvaryirb.org</a>
Deacon:	The Rev .Melissa Sands	(727)744-2522 Deacon.melissa.sands@gmail.com
Music Director:	Mr. Matthew Burke	(407)618-6702 <a href="mailto:Mburke@calvaryirb.org">Mburke@calvaryirb.org</a>
Parish Administrator:	Mrs. Laurie Lawther	(727)595-2374 <a href="mailto:Llawther@calvaryirb.org">Llawther@calvaryirb.org</a>
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## Save the Date

“The Christmas Mission Across America”

**December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

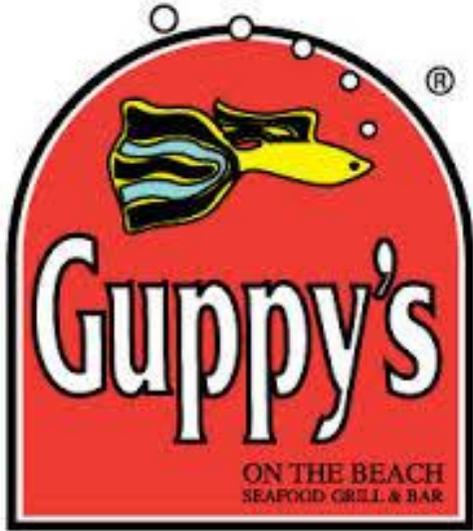
3pm Matinee

\$5 Tickets on Sale

Musical & Drama by the Calvary Youth

Proceeds to aid Youth & Music Ministries of Calvary

# Community PARTNERS



Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach

"Service Above Self"



Indian Rocks  
Family Sailing Association, Inc

*"Bringing our community together  
to experience the gift of life under sail"*



ELIZABETH "BETSEY" MCKENNA  
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