

THE

# CALVIN CONNECTION

Your connection to the Calvin Church Community

## November

- Thur 24<sup>th</sup>** Church Christmas Decorating (9:00 a.m.)
- Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** Maplestone service (2:30 p.m.)
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Coffee Party & Sale (10:30 a.m. - noon)
- Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** First Sunday of Advent
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Chain meets (10:30 a.m.)

The season of 'Advent' is upon us! Leading up to the celebration of Christmas, Advent's focus is one of preparation. Remembering Christ's first coming into the world as a baby in the manger, and expectantly awaiting his coming again in glory to usher in the fullness of God's kingdom, Advent is a time of readying our hearts, minds, and should to welcome Jesus anew into our lives, and to recommit ourselves to living life in his Spirit.



**Christmas Coffee Party & Sale**  
 Sat. Nov. 26th  
 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Tickets: \$8  
 (see DiAnne Campbell)

Donations to the Craft Table, New to You or Bake Table, items can be dropped off Fri. from 1:00 - 3:45 p.m., and 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

## Dedicating the Halifax Explosion Monument

As noted in the previous newsletter, the anchor monument outside the church has received a substantial facelift over the course of the past 2 years, The Anchor shard has been remounted, interpretive panels have been installed, a walkway has been laid, and new landscaping planted.

The dedication of the new monument will take place on **Sun. Dec. 4th**, during the 11:00 a.m. service, with a brief service outside at the conclusion of worship (weather permitting). We've invited local government leaders to join us for this service, and hope you'll be there too, as together we remember the Halifax Explosion, and the many lives lost in its wake.

## Breakfast @ Jim's

You are invited to join us for this monthly tradition of getting together for breakfast at Jim's restaurant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the every month.

So make plans to join for breakfast on:

## Sat. Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

@ 8:30 a.m.

at Jim's restaurant  
(243 Bedford Highway,  
Halifax)

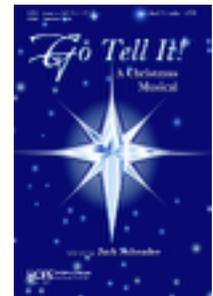
Everyone is invited to come enjoy good food, and great fellowship.

## Christmas Pot-Luck Dessert Party

Join us on **Sat. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** for a laid back evening of song and socializing. Bring your favourite holiday dessert to share! Try your hand at some Christmas Trivia! Sing along to see your favourite Christmas songs, and let yourself be immersed in the Christmas Spirit.

## Christmas Eve Service

This year's Christmas Eve service of worship will be held on **Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m.** This year's service is an adaption of the musical cantata "Go Tell It!" which blends readings recalling the Gospel lessons, Choir led anthems and congregational singing, to once again celebrate the Good News of the Christmas story.



In response to peoples' comments and helpful input, this year's cantata includes more congregational singing. As well, during this year's a service, **a children's program led by Erika Flemming will be available downstairs for children 8 and under.** So please make plans to come and celebrate Christmas at Calvin!

## Christmas Day Service

This year, Christmas Day (**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**) falls on a Sunday. And as usual, worship will be held that **Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** Worship that day will take the form of a traditional 'Carols & Lessons' style service, as we retrace the story of Christ's coming into the world as told by Luke and Matthew's Gospels. We realize Christmas Day can be busy, but we'd like to invite to make plans to join us that morning to celebrate God's greatest gift to us - the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ!

## Christmas Mission Projects

There are many various ways to help make a difference in our world, and right here in our own community this Christmas Season. The Mission Team has put together a number of ways you can help, and while some require money, others only require your time (and perhaps your voice...) Please consider how you can help to bring home the love of Christ to someone in our community this Christmas! Be sure to check the dates for events, and for the due dates on certain projects.

## December

<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Christmas Pot-luck Dessert Party (7:00 p.m.)
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Dedication of the Halifax Explosion Monument (11:00 a.m.)
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Breakfast @ Jim's (8:30 a.m.)
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Angel Tree gifts due
<b>Thur 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Community Christmas Carolling for the Foodbank (7:00 p.m.; storm date, Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Communion Service (11:00 a.m.)
<b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Eve Service & Children's Program (7:00 p.m.)
<b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Day 'Carols & Lessons' service (11:00 a.m.)

### 1.) Adopt a child.

Calvin has adopted **65 children** through the Angel Tree Giving Program. This program, in conjunction with the Feed Nova Scotia, helps to provide food and gifts to a number of families in need of help in our community. Tags will be available for pick up off the Angel Giving Tree outside the sanctuary in the coming weeks. **Please return unwrapped gifts, with tags attached, by Sun. Dec. 11th.**

### 2.) Help provide food hampers for local families

The Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank is hoping to provide food hampers (including a turkey) again to families in need this Christmas, & food throughout the Christmas Season. **The cost of a hamper for a single family is \$50.** Cheques (in any amount) can be made out to Calvin Presbyterian Church or cash donations can be put in an envelope earmarked 'Food Bank Christmas Hampers'. Tax receipts will be issued along with regular donations at the end of the year. If a separate receipt is required, please note as such on the envelope with your name and address.

### 3.) Help stock the Food Bank Shelves

Aside from the Christmas Hamper program, the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank regularly provides food to help more than 700 people in our community. Donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome and can be left in the shopping cart outside the sanctuary. Monetary donations to help the food bank purchase items can be made through the church. Cheques can be made out to Calvin Presbyterian Church or cash donations can be put in an envelope earmarked 'Food Bank'. Again, tax receipts will be issued as above.

### 4.) Donate to the Mitten Tree

Donations of socks, hats, mittens, gloves, etc., can be placed on the 'Mitten Tree', just outside the church's sanctuary in the narthex. These donations will be delivered to Phoenix Youth, and a local men's shelter. **Last day for donations will Sun. Dec. 18th.**

### 5.) Community Christmas Caroling

Again this year, Calvin Church hopes to be caroling through the community collecting items and donations for the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank. All interested singers are invited to join us for caroling on Thurs. Dec. 15th at 7:00 p.m., and for a time of fellowship and hot chocolate afterwards! (please note: a 'storm date' will be Sat. Dec. 17th)

## PWS&D Mission Moments

### The vouchers help me survive

"In Syria, I could do anything." Now settled in Lebanon with his daughter Rihan, Mousa remembers his peaceful home before the war. Mousa has not been able to find work because of restrictions placed on Syrian refugees. To get by, he picks fruit for local farmers but does not earn enough to cover his expenses. With partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Presbyterian World Service & Development is providing food vouchers to Syrian refugees so they can purchase groceries at local stores and save money for rent. For Mousa, this assistance has been an answer to his prayers. During the uncertainty of war, knowing he can provide a warm dinner for his daughter is a source of comfort and strength.

PWS&D responds to refugees



## Elders Needed!

In 2015 Calvin made the switch to 'term service' for Elders serving on the congregation's Session. 'Term service' involves 1/3 of a Session's membership being renewed every 2 years. This means that 2017 will be a year in which we look to elect new elders.

The following is an attempt to answer some of the questions you might have regarding this process.

### How many Elders are we looking for?

'Term service' stipulates that 1/3 of a Session's membership is to be renewed every 2 years. The Session here at Calvin has been operating with a membership of 15 elders, meaning we are now looking to elect 5 individuals to service on the Session.

### What do the Elders do?

The Eldership is an office of 'spiritual leadership', and as such, Elders are responsible for working with the minister (with whom they form the Session) and for providing leadership, supervision, oversight, and pastoral care for all groups, members, and adherents connected with the congregation. (BoF section 109.1)

### Who can be elected as an Elder to the Session?

Those being elected to the eldership must be committed Christians, professing members of the congregation, and should be in regular attendance at worship.

Moreover, the Apostle Paul suggests that Elders should exhibit gifts you believe would be useful within the spiritual leadership and visioning of the church, while at the same time being, as he suggests "an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity" –one who is not overbearing or quick tempered, but who is instead hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self- controlled, upright, holy and disciplined, and an encouragement to others through the living of their faith (see 1 Timothy 4:12 & Titus 1:7-9).

Those who have previously been ordained as Elders, but who are either no longer serving on the Session or in scheduled to step down in the rotation, can be re-elected to the Session. (*Elders stepping down on this rotation include: Harold Smith, Byrch MacQuarrie, Carol MacLennan, John Bonnell, & Mary MacKinnon*)

## How are people elected to serve as Elders on the Session?

### Step 1:

Their names must be submitted in writing, and attested to by at least 2 members of the congregation (with their names appearing either together on one ballot, or on separate ballots naming the same nominee). This can be done using the yellow 'Nomination Ballots' available outside the Sanctuary. Ballots can be filled out, and dropped into the nomination box between the Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Step 2:

Session will then vet the nomination ballots at its regular meeting on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> (i.e. removing spoiled ballots, ineligible nominees, and names not attested to by 2 or more supports.). The remaining ballots will then be counted and the top 5 supported nominees moved onto a short list.

### Step 3:

The Session will contact, meet with, and pray for each nominee on its short list regarding their willingness to accept their nomination to the Eldership. Should any nominee(s) decline the nomination, the Session will then approach the next highest nominated candidate on its list.

### Step 4:

After the Session has identified 5 candidates willing to stand for election to the Session, these names will be presented to the congregation, with the congregation be asked to vote their support as it pertains to each individual candidate. (Ideally, this could happen as early as Sun. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>)

### Step 5:

Should all 5 candidates receive sufficient support from the congregation voting, those candidates will be admitted to the Session.

### Step 6:

Previously ordained elders being re-elected to the Session will be admitted without being re-ordination. For those candidates being elected to the eldership for the first time, a service of ordination will be scheduled. (ideally before the end of Mar.)

## Listen in while away

A reminder that audio recordings of Sunday's services at Calvin are now available on line. Listen in at [www.calvinhalifax.ca](http://www.calvinhalifax.ca).



just a friendly reminder...

**Volunteers needed:**

Volunteers are always welcome to:

Sign up to read Scripture during Sunday morning Services.

Sign up to help record the offering that is received each Sunday.

**Contribute Your News:**

Help keep people informed. Share your faith story, an experience of God's, or your groups plans and activities with the congregation!

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The Calvin Connection is a publication of Calvin Presbyterian Church aimed at keeping the community informed of events in and around the life of the church.

All ministry teams within the congregation are encouraged to submit information for publication, and those groups or individuals wishing to contribute are encourage to have submissions into the office via email no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, **encourage** one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”

~ 2 Corinthians 3:11