

THE

CALVIN CONNECTION

Your connection to the Calvin Church Community



This Month

- Sat 5th** Carol Sing & Pot-luck dessert party (7:00 p.m.)
- Sun 6th** Angel Tree donations due (11:00 a.m.)
- Sat 12th** Breakfast @ Jim's (8:30 a.m.)
- Mon 14th** Community Carolling for the Food Bank (7:00 p.m.)
- Sun 20th** Christmas Communion Service (11:00 a.m.)

Mitten Tree Donations due (11:00 a.m.)
- Thur 24th** Christmas Eve Service (7:00 p.m.)
- Fri 25th** Christmas Day!
- Sun 27th** Maplestone Service (2:30 p.m.)

January

- Fri 1st** New Year's Day!



A Christmas Invitation...

Christmas is coming! It's a busy time of year. And in amongst all the busyness it's easy for things - even important things - to get lost, or overlooked, or forgotten about altogether.

I confess, this past Fall has been a bit of an education in 'busyness' as our family has adjusted to a new career, a new school, new activities, new routines, and all the chaos that comes along with that. It can, I've discovered, be exhausting. And along the way, things have indeed got lost, overlooked, or even forgotten.

In all the rushing about we can lose focus. We can even lose something of our faith...as we can sometimes let our relationship with God take a backseat to the hustle and bustle of our busy schedules. And perhaps it's out of an awareness of this very thing, and our preoccupation with needing to be busy, that God invites us to *'be still and to know that he is God'*. (Psalm 46:10)

Now, 'stillness' doesn't necessarily mean doing 'nothing'. But it



Carol Sing & pot-luck dessert party

Bring some dessert to share,
and join us for evening of
singing some of your favourite
Christmas songs, laughing,
and games.

Sat. Dec. 5th

@ 6:30 p.m.



Breakfast @ Jim's

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

So make plans to join for
breakfast on:

Sat. Dec. 12th

@ 8:30 a.m.

at Jim's restaurant
(243 Bedford Hwy, Halifax)
Everyone is invited to come
enjoy good food, and great
fellowship.

does mean doing those things that bring us closer to God...and closer to the life God intended us for.

So, this Christmas, let me invite you to join me in an effort to be 'still' - to take time out from all the activities that can so quickly and easily fill the season, and to focus your heart, mind, and energy on growing closer to God and to God's great purpose for your life.

Try reading your way through the Christmas story (Matthew 1:1-2:12 & Luke 1:1-2:20), make it a point to pray, commit yourself to sharing in Sunday worship, and contributing to the mission work of the church.

More than simply recalling God's gift of love to us in the gift of Himself in Christ, let us take this season as an opportunity to show our love for God in return!

Christmas Mission Projects

1.) Adopt a child.

Calvin has adopted 60 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. 6th.

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. 20th.

5.) Community Christmas Carolling:

Again this year, Calvin Church hopes to be carolling through the community collecting items and donations for the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank. All interested singers are invited to join us for carolling on Mon. Dec. 14th at 7:00 p.m., and for a time of fellowship and hot chocolate afterwards!



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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 encouraged to have submissions into the office via email no later than the 25th 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



just a friendly reminder...

Outreach Ministry Position:

At our Oct. 24th congregational meeting, we agreed to pursue the creation of outreach ministry position. A proposed job, description, contract, and evaluation forms have been drafted, submitted to the Presbytery for approval, and to the Presbyterian Church in Canada's national office for feedback. The PCC offices have offered some constructive feedback, which the session will now review moving forward.

Presbyterian Sharing:

As a congregation we pledged a commitment of \$20,000 to Presbyterian Sharing for 2015. As of Nov. 29th, Calvin has given a total of \$ 21,945...exceeding our commitment by almost \$2000. Thank you for your generous support.

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!