

In my Father's house, there are many rooms.

John 14:2

SUMMER ISSUE 2008

Dear God,

You promised us that your house has many rooms. We hope that's true, because you're going to need a lot of space. We're sending you our friend, our brother David Symmes, and he's a big guy. He was big enough to look dashing in a leather jacket and an Indiana Jones hat. He was big enough to be a jungle gym for his grandchildren. He was big enough that you could see his smile from way across a crowded room. He had this big voice, too. If you were sitting next to him, you didn't just hear it. You felt it rumbling up from the floor under your foot. And he had a big heart. He was always ready to help, always ready to serve, always right there with a big hug.

You'll need some room for Dave to spread out, God, because he's got a lot of big ideas. He had so many plans and suggestions and theories and questions, that it's hard for us to believe they all fit inside one head. And he had every one of them thought through, right down to the last detail. He had so many ideas of his own, but he was still hungry for more. We've never known a guy who liked it more when someone disagreed with him and made him see a question from a new point of view. He loved independent thinkers, and he was so proud to be married to a woman who knew her own mind. "If you want two different opinions," he would say, "just ask me and Sally."

If you don't have enough room, God, it's OK. Just ask David to build it for you. All he ever wanted was to help build your house on earth. When I came to this church last fall, I sat with many people and learned about their lives. I asked each person, "How did you come to Calvary? What has this church meant to you?" It took David over an hour to answer those questions, and I could tell it was causing him pain to leave so much of the story out. Later, when he was nominated to be our Senior Warden, I asked him how he wanted to serve you, his God. He said, "I want to be like the mortar for the bricks. I want to hold people together and give them the support they need. I want to do the hard work behind the scenes, whether it's washing dishes or crunching numbers or working out the details of some terribly boring policy, so that other people can have a secure foundation for doing God's work in this place."

And that is just what he did. Wherever he went, David built up places for your love to dwell. He built a strong marriage and raised a beautiful, loving family. He worked faithfully for decades to build up his company. He gave constant support to his town and his church.

You have told us, God, that you made all of us in your image. Each person comes into the world to show us another side of you, another vision of your greatness. David showed us your faithfulness. He showed us the God who would not let our foot be moved, who would neither slumber nor sleep, who would hold us and keep us safe from evil.

Dave always wanted see things through to the end, and he left us so suddenly and so soon. Dear Lord, let him rest now, trusting that he completed all the work you gave him to do. Let him know that his offering of love will never be lost. It will be treasured forever in your heart, and in ours.

In your holy scriptures, you came to King David and told him that he would not be the one to build your house. He would die before the temple was raised on Mount Zion. David replied, "The house of the Lord must be great. Therefore I will make preparations for it." He gathered the great stones and timbers for the temple and gave them to his son, Solomon. He said, "My son, do not be afraid. If you follow God's ways, I know the Lord will guide you. Be strong and begin the work."

We thank you, God, for giving David to us. Let him roam now in the wide-open spaces of your love. Let his spirit and his memory make our hearts grow large. Give us courage to pick up the work that he began so well, and build your kingdom here on earth.

Funeral homily preached June 4, 2008 by the Reverend Thea Keith-Lucas



Next Steps in Calvary's Governance

When David Symmes died suddenly on May 31, Calvary lost a beloved friend and leader. His passing has been a great loss to the entire community. It gives us such hope to see the way that this parish has come together to mourn, to remember, and to celebrate a life so full of generosity and grace. Thank you all for your outpouring of support to the Symmes family and for your determination to keep building on David's impressive legacy of love and hard work.

The remaining members of the Finance Committee (Bill Hooper, Kristine Hanscom, Chuck Heaphy, Jane Maihos and Dave Saunders) and the Audit Committee (Leon Pechinsky and Dave Saunders) are capably continuing the work that David began. Both groups would welcome any new members interested in supporting Calvary as good stewards of the parish's finances.

Under the Parish By-laws, if there is a vacancy in one Warden's seat, the remaining Warden assumes the responsibilities of both Wardens until a new Warden is elected. Christina Holz will continue on as our sole Warden. Christina brings great intelligence and care to her work as Warden, and is available to serve the whole community. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns about parish life, please contact her at whiteholz@msn.com or 978-646-9339.

We do not plan to fill David's seat until the regular parish elections at the end of October. This will allow us to take the time to conduct a thorough and thoughtful Warden nomination process.

In order to make sure that the Rector and Warden have plenty of support, we have asked the Clerk, Jane Maihos, the Treasurer, Bill Hooper, and former Senior Wardens Fran Weil and Eric Crane to take part in an Advisory Committee, which will meet monthly. We so appreciate the experience, perspective, and love for Calvary that these leaders offer to our community.

The Vestry has appointed a nominating committee made up of this Advisory Committee and four additional members drawn from the congregation (Jim Arthur, Donna Joyce, Linda Smith, and Priscilla Gerrard). The Nominating Committee will prayerfully look for the right gifts and skills to fill the positions of Warden, Clerk and three vestry members. You can offer yourself or another Calvary member for nomination by speaking to any Nominating Committee member. We can all work together to find the best leadership for Calvary's next chapter.

The Vestry has postponed until Sunday, September 14 our workshop meeting to identify concrete ways that we can increase revenue, deepen our engagement in stewardship and ministry, and develop a stronger presence in the community. If you have any ideas you would like the Vestry to consider at this meeting, you can attend the meeting (noon – 2:00 pm in the parish hall) or speak to any vestry member. Current members are Jim Arthur, Shirley Cloutman, Priscilla Gerrard, John Gettings, Jan Griffin, John Parcellin, Bill Sabeau, Jan Saulnier and Sheila Sullivan.

Looking Forward to our Sesquicentennial Celebration

Come and celebrate Calvary's 150th anniversary!

On Saturday, September 20th, we will enjoy a gala celebration at Angelica's Restaurant in Middleton with dinner, dancing, an engaging video history of Calvary, a display of Calvary memorabilia, and more. Tickets to the dinner will be \$40 per person. (If this cost would prevent you from attending, assistance is available through Rev. Thea).

On Sunday, September 21st, we will honor Calvary with a Festive Eucharist featuring the tolling of the bell from the original church, special musical offerings, prayers written by Calvary members, and the dedication of a memorial to David Symmes.

If you have friends or family members who feel connected to Calvary and might want to take part in the celebration, please give their names and addresses to our Parish Administrator, Lauryn Pierre so we can send an invitation.

We hope to see you there!

Budget Update



In our deficit budget, we expected to spend \$9,000 more than we made by the end of May. Our actual shortfall was \$15,000. Your Vestry is working to cut expenses and increase revenue, but we need your help. Please keep up your pledges, and consider an additional gift to Calvary. We appreciate your generosity!

Volunteers needed to help remove our old carpet, date and time to be announced. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to help, brunch or lunch will be served. Margaret O'Neill will call you with the date and time.



CALVARY GRADUATES 2008

Sean Crosley is graduating from Masconomet Regional High School, where he was the 2008 Musician of the Year. He took part in Chorale and reached district and state-level competitions in music. This year he made the All-State Music Festival and performed at Symphony Hall in Boston. He has performed in several musicals, including playing the lead in the high school's 2008 production of *Footloose*. He plans to continue pursuing his career in music at Salem State College this fall.

Amanda Hunt is graduating from Danvers High School. While in high school, she excelled as a musician in the Concert and Marching Bands and served as Drum Major for the Marching Band. She was active in the Drama Club and in sports, including

swimming and track. She has been recognized by multiple honors societies for her academic achievements and her commitment to community service. This June she will be traveling to the Amazon with a small, chosen group of science students from Danvers High School to study ecology. She will attend Boston University, where she hopes to study Spanish and Biology and prepare for medical school.

Rachel Barthelemy graduated from Salem State College with a major in English and with minors in French and History. She is beginning work on her Master's degree in English, hoping either to teach at the college level or to work in writing.

Charles Gerrard completed Great Lakes Naval Training in March and graduated second in his class from technical training as an Aviation Botswain Handler in Pensacola this month. He will be deployed on the USS Kearsarge, a small aircraft carrier based in Norfolk, Virginia, to handle helicopters and vertical-landing aircraft.

Amanda Kessler graduated last year from Lehigh University with a major in Political Science, but took an opportunity to study a fifth year and add minors in International Relations and Psychology. She is now looking for a job in New York City either in alumni relations or development.

Brendan Woo completed his studies at Yale University. He majored in Linguistics and plans to spend the next two years teaching English in China.

Barbara Zorzy completed her Masters in Business Administration at Salem State College.

Congratulations to our Graduates! God bless you all!

Congratulations to the Reverend Rebecca Crane!

Becky Crane was ordained at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, June 7. We enjoyed a lovely celebration with her at Calvary that evening, and then she served as our deacon and preached a dynamite sermon the next morning.

As a vocational deacon, Becky is a member of the clergy now. She wears a collar and receives the title Reverend. She has new roles in worship: proclaiming the gospel, leading confession, setting the table, distributing the bread, and dismissing the people.

A deacon's role is to bring the Church to the World and the World to the Church. Becky will continue to be employed as a teacher, but will also do significant work in the Church on a volunteer basis. Deacons answer directly to the bishops, who are responsible for assigning them to support a parish or a diocesan project. Becky is currently considering several potential projects in family ministry through parishes on the North Shore.

Calvary Book Club's Summer Read



All are invited
to read

Barbara Kingsolver's novel
The Poisonwood Bible and discuss it our next meeting,
Thursday, September 11th, at
Donna Joyce's house (9 Bates
St., Danvers).



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Christina Holz ~ Warden
Bill Hooper ~ Treasurer
Jane Maihos ~ Clerk



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Bill Sabean
Jan Saulnier
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John Parcellin
Shelia Sullivan
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