



How To Vote

Dear Calvary,

It happens rarely now, but there was a time when parishioners asked their clergy for advice about how to vote in an important election. I want to share some advice about that - How to vote...but I will not presume to tell you WHO to vote for. This isn't about candidates; it is about attitudes!

Before that moment comes where it's your turn to enter the voting booth please consider three principles which may put you in the proper spiritual attitude:

*Vote Thankfully: give God praise for being able to live in a society, a free nation, in which your vote matters. Thank God that you are privileged to join with millions of other citizens in selecting leaders at every level of government.

*Vote Thoughtfully: there is plenty that is right about our country and plenty that is wrong. Take time to know what the issues at stake are, both locally and globally. Will your vote reflect merely what would benefit you personally or what would benefit the greatest number of people?

*Vote Trustfully: pray before you cast your ballot. It is not unheard of that people who had their minds made up beforehand were led by prayer and the Holy Spirit to vote differently. Remember too, that people of deep faith can be led to very different political positions. That's just part of the dialectical nature of the journey of faith.

*Trust the Outcome: while we may rejoice when our particular candidate wins, do know that it's not the end of the world if they lose! What happens today, while not unimportant, is just a blip on the screen of history.

Take heart. Be of good cheer. Vote on Election Day, November 4!

Faithfully,

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

By Ann Schuler

Seek God's Will; Let Go Of The Outcome And Everything Else Will Fall Into Place

Luke 12:7

Indeed the **very hairs of your head** are numbered.

Luke 12:31

Seek first **His** kingdom and **all** these things shall be added unto you.

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Trust in the lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him, and **He will direct your paths.**

What can you do to feel better when trouble comes into your life and you are anxious? First, remember that God is interested in even the **tiniest** detail of your life. Some people make the mistake of not wanting to “bother” God with their every day problems. Big mistake! God’s love is so much bigger than you can imagine. He cares about the smallest blade of grass and every hair on your head. So when you have issues or concerns, no matter how small, just know that **God wants to help you and point you in the right direction.**

Secondly, say to yourself, again and again, “What would God want me to do?” When you **alone** worry about what to do, or which direction you should take, the task becomes too vast, too overwhelming, like looking for a penny on the bottom of the ocean. But when you re-focus your thoughts on what **God** would have you do, your search will take a different course. Your issues will become clarified because God **loves** you, **wants** to direct you and **will** illuminate your path; **this** He promises. **Your** job is to ask Him to show you your signs and signals, and then **don't be afraid to take a step.** If it is the wrong step, God will re-route you. **Let go of the outcome.** That means, don't keep playing in your mind 20 horrible things that **might** happen, if you make a particular move. **God will control what happens, once you take your step of faith.**

Finally, when you start to get anxious, you should dwell on the three verses on the top of this page. Memorize them. Repeat them in your head when you start to worry. As you remind yourself that God is concerned about **every hair** on your head, you'll start to feel better. When you refocus your “search” to the direction that God wants you to take, **He will reveal His will to you.** And as you repeat to yourself these positive verses, it will push out all the negative, anxious messages that you have floating in your heart and you will be filled with peace. You can have confidence that God will direct you to make the right decision in every aspect of your life. As a result, you will have the outcome that is best for not only for you, **but for those whom you love.**

The Stump We All Turn To

A sermon by Fr. Chip preached on October 19, 2008

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.

(Matthew 22:21)

When our children were small, one of the little books we used to read to them was written by Shel Silverstein called "The Giving Tree". If you haven't read it, you really ought to. It will break your heart and then put it back together again.

It's about a big beautiful tree that loves a little boy who plays in its limbs, climbs its trunk, swings from its branches and eats its apples. When the boy gets tired he sleeps in the tree's shade. The boy loves the tree and the tree loves him.

But one day the boy announces that he is too big to climb and play anymore. "I want some money," he tells the tree. "Can you give me money?"

The tree says, "I only have leaves and apples, but you can take them and sell them in the city and then you will have money and then you will be happy." The boy does that, and the tree is happy for the boy.

Eventually, the boy goes away for many years and it makes the tree sad. When he finally returns, the tree eagerly invites him to climb and play.

"I'm much too busy to climb trees," he says. "What I really want is a house to keep me warm. Can you give me a house?"

"You can cut off my large branches and build a house," says the tree, "then you will be happy." The boy does just that and the tree is happy for the boy once again.

When the boy comes back next, many more years have passed. He's no longer a boy but an old man. The tree invites him to climb and play.

"I can't," says the boy, "I'm way too old and sad. I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?"

"You may cut down my trunk and make a boat," says the tree. "Then you will be happy."

He cuts down the tree and makes a boat and sails away. And the tree is happy - well not really.

Years later the boy returns again looking very aged and worn out. "I'm sorry, boy," says the tree, "But I have nothing left to give you. My apples are gone. My branches are gone. My trunk is gone. I'm just an old stump. I'm sorry."

"I don't need very much now," says the boy, "just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am so very tired." "Well, says the tree, "an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, and sit down. Sit down and rest."

The Boy sits....and the tree is happy. THE END.

Even a child can understand the metaphor here. The Giving Tree is God, always ready to give us what we need. In giving God is happy. Sometimes what God gives us is not what we think we really need or desire, but it's because God knows that what we need most is love.

The boy in the story is you and me. We have love for God and for others, but when we begin to think of our own needs and wants we begin to develop an insatiable hunger, a ravenous appetite - we yearn for more and more, bigger and better. We're in such constant pursuit of more and bigger and better that we do not ask ourselves, "how much is really enough?" And often we dare God to prove his unconditional love by demanding that he meet our whimsical needs again and again and again....or we will go away.

In our hunger for more, and in our fear and uncertainty of not getting it, we lose the ability to distinguish between our true needs and our trivial wants. And we demand and accrue so much for ourselves that others with real need are stripped bare of all they have, until there is no more left to give, until all that's left is a stump.

We can see recently how such greed has nearly brought the world's economy to its knees - how greed has jeopardized retirement plans, hamstrung small businesses and created fear and panic among the general population. Greedy demand has turned the world's economic infrastructure into a stump.

* * * * *

Last week we began our annual time of spiritual discernment known as the “Stewardship Campaign.” My remarks here are just part of the opening act. The climax will come two weeks hence on All Saints Sunday, November 2, when we will lay our pledges on the altar and give them to the glory of God.

The whole deal about stewardship is about trying to become transformed from compulsive and fearful takers into givers with the heart of the Giving Tree. Fr. John Haughey of Loyola University, Chicago says, “We read the gospel as if we had no money; and we spend our money as if there were no gospel.”

What is the gospel? In a nutshell it’s just this: Jesus gave us the great Commandment that we must love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (in other words, with everything in our being), and then we must love others as we love ourselves (with everything in our wallets). We must do these two things prayerfully and faithfully to have any hope of finding abundant life.

In the context of today’s gospel - with which we’re all familiar - it means, yes, giving to Caesar or (Uncle Sam) what is due him to guarantee our precious freedoms, but it also means giving to God what is his. And do you know what that is? Just look in the mirror: It’s YOU. He wants you - your heart, soul, mind, body and strength. And interestingly enough, we seem to have fewer problems rendering to Uncle Sam the 28% or more of our gross that he demands, than we do the 10% that God asks. Why is that?

Locally, this ideal (but elusive) 10% of God’s money gives expression to His love through Calvary Church. It allows God’s people here to sustain, embody, grow in and impart God’s love.

Today, perhaps more than ever before I suppose we have more excuses than we’ll ever need to justify not being good stewards – that is, if we’re looking for excuses. Our irrational fear of scarcity bodes gloom and doom and there is no shortage of Christian people nearby who are the doomsayers, predicting tough times ahead for Calvary Church. But know this: if tough times come for Calvary, it’s purely discretionary - we will have chosen it!

There is a wonderful line from Ecclesiastes 11:4. It says, “If you wait until the wind and weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything.”

In other words, wealth does not have to be amassed before it’s shared anymore than a farmer must be guaranteed a great harvest before he plants the seed.

The Biblical spirit of stewardship is that with our tithes (10%) God makes us co-creators and co-managers with him and with our neighbors with our pooled pledges. It is not about mere individual Christians sacrificing a small part of their individual incomes. It’s a corporate thing, a together thing!

To fully understand this concept, we have to remember how utterly inter-dependent we are, that we are what we are because of what we have received from others. Everything we have achieved, every degree we have received, every opportunity that has come our way, and everything we know has been imparted to us from outside ourselves. And it all originates with God. He is the giver of all good gifts!

If we truly understand this then we will stop chasing the American myth/dream and start pursuing the Kingdom of God!

It is equally important to know that God does not want us to give as a means of clearing our conscience. Tithing is not about guilt but about gratitude. It’s not about paying our “dues” or what we think is our “fair share” because that presumes that we are able to rightly estimate the value of God’s love based upon our limited contact with the church, an “I’ll pay for what I think I get” approach. No, God and His Church are going to be here in some form whether you give or not. The issue is: do you want to participate in the kind of life God has called you to in your baptism? It does us no good to give out of guilt or hope of return on our money, because that’s not love but spiritual emptiness.

Years ago the Senior Warden of a tiny Episcopal Church far outside New York City gave a personal testimony on stewardship. Although it was a small parish, the congregants were certainly not poor. Because he worked on Wall Street, this man had no qualms about asking for money directly. Nevertheless, his parish always seemed to hover just above survival mode. Most pledges represented the leftovers after the private schools and Ivy League Alma Maters and Art Societies had been donated to. He stood before his own congregation that morning and asked: If you were aboard an airplane about to crash, to whom would you pray? Would you scream out “Save me UK!” “O Please, U of L, help me!” “Merrill Lynch, watch over my family in my absence!” “Ditech.com have mercy on me!”? The haunting irony of this Senior Warden’s words are that he worked on the 93th floor of One World Trade Center and died on 9-11. [I, of course, changed the names of the institutions to make a point.]

God is always the stump we eventually turn to for rest both in life and death. And, in return, all God asks of us is to trust in his love, to act in his love and to invest in his love. Please, please do it from the depths of your soul. Don’t do it for me, or for you, or for your conscience. Don’t even do it for Calvary Church. Do it only for God. Then you will know what true contentment feels like.

Be sure to be with us for our All Saints services on Sunday, November 2!

Faithfully,

For Your Information

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost - October 26

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46
Psalm: Ps 90:1-6, 13-17

Sunday After All Saints Day

First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17
Epistle: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
Psalm: Ps 34:1-10, 22

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost - November 9

First Lesson: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
Psalm: Ps 78:1-7

Prayers Are Requested for:

For the Sick and Those in Need

Bill Moore, Betty Lou Moore, Brian and Becky, K.C. Donnelly, Eric, Erin, Jon, Chrissey, Danielle, Janet, Bobby, Jay Fuhro, Martha Dodson, Larry Meek, Molly, Judy Gearhart, Chuck Wessel, Pearl Coleman, Herb Parsons, Larry Craycraft, Doug, Paula, Alex, Barbara Stokes, Drew, Bruce Leslie, and Jeanne Martin

Shut-in/Convalescing

Nell Hutchinson, Marie Kephart, Tootie Morefield, Lucille Kazee, Phyllis McKenzie, William and Betty Brown, Duane Chapman, Martha Compton, and Chuck Hood

Anniversaries

Oct. 24 David and Diane Zwick (1992)
Nov. 3 Bernard and Michelle O’Nan

Children’s Education and Programs

9:30 - 10:15 Youth Sunday School

10:30 Morning Eucharist

Sermon
Children’s Chapel
“Godly Play”

Stories of the Bible shared
through loving messages of
the heart.

Youth Service Sunday, October 26, 2008
“Love and Prayer”

Christmas Program Sunday, December 14, 2008
“The Twelve Days of Christmas”

DISCIPLES COURSE

The new adult education course continues this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. It will run for approximately 6 more weeks and is entitled “Invitation to John.” Session 1 was called “Come and See,” Session 2 was called “How Is It Possible,” Session 3 was called “Taste for Yourself,” Session 4 was called “To Believe or Not to Believe,” Session 5 was called “Are We Blind,” Session 6 is called “I Couldn’t Believe My Eyes,” Session 7 is called “Would You Believe It,” Session 8 is “What Time Is It,” Session 9 is called “Look Out,” Session 10 is called “Believing Without Seeing,” and Session 11 is called “Do You See Him.”

Each session will include a 15 - 20 minute video followed by discussion. The sessions will be facilitated by the Adult Education Committee of the Vestry in the Parish Hall.

2008-2009

Calendar of Events

The Little Disciples (20 months – Preschool) and **The Get Along Gang** (Pre K - 2nd grade) offer our children an opportunity to gather every month for a time of Bible stories, crafts, refreshments and fellowship. We will follow our summer 2008 VBS curriculum, *Rainforest Adventure*, at First Christian Church, 1930 Winchester Avenue.

Schedule of Events

Sun., Oct. 26	Fall Festival	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 30	Xmas Gift Workshop	2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 4	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 1	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., March 1	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., April 5	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Sun., May 3	Monthly Meeting	5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We are pleased to lift up special needs and thanksgivings related to loved ones. Names are carried for one calendar month unless otherwise requested. Thanksgivings change weekly. Please try to be as concise and specific as you can.

PLEASE BLOCK PRINT

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

NAME OF PERSON(S) TO BE PRAYED FOR:

Their Need (healing, hospital, convalescing, dying, etc.):

Thanksgiving for:

Today’s Date: _____

Your Name _____
(important)

Please place form in offering basin or mail to the office.

The Chalice Hymnal

Calvary members and friends are encouraged to help us provide a new hymnal for use at our worship services. The Vestry unanimously agreed that we need to provide better, singable music and that the congregation be encouraged to memorialize or honor loved ones by donating toward the purchase of these books. The Chalice Hymnal would not entirely replace the 1982 Episcopal Hymnal, although it would become our primary sourcebook for worship. Gifts will be recognized with a suitable memorial plate on the inside cover of the Chalice Hymnal. Cost per book is \$21.00. An inscription with the Calvary name and address will be imprinted on the blue cover. Blue was the chosen color to distinguish it from the red Prayer Books.

To make a gift of one or more Chalice Hymnals please attach your check to the form below.

<p><u>CHALICE HYMNAL</u></p> <p>_____ # copies at \$21.00 each. _____ check attached</p> <p>Your name _____ phone _____</p> <p>Name of person to ___ honor (living) ___ memorialize (deceased)</p> <p>Please print clearly:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Note: One name per book. Use additional forms as necessary.</p>

We Care - Let Us Know!! Please let us know ASAP when a family member goes to the hospital or nursing home or is scheduled for a procedure. We want to help you share the burden. Call the office at 325-2328 or chip@calvaryepiscopal.com.

Kroger Cards

Don't forget the Kroger Card program when honoring loved ones. "Gift" your family and friends with Kroger cards. You will not only be providing them with a useful gift, you'll be helping our church earn rebates as well. Call Tina Mussetter at 232-2336 for your special Calvary-keyed card!

Magazine Drive

Please don't forget that we still need your used magazines for the area nursing homes. See Pam Womack for more details.

2008 Fellowship Hosts

- Oct. 26 "Trick or Treat" - Honor Youth
- Nov. 2 Bill and Betty Lou Moore
9 Sharon and Chip Valentine
16 David and Lori Slagel
23 Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
30 Mary Riley
- Dec. 7 *
14 Tina and David Mussetter
21 David Stewart
28 Kathy and Don Setterman

*No luncheon in December. The people that decorate the church will bring pot-luck for this date.

Cell Phone vs. Bible

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
What if we flipped through it several times a day?
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
What if we used it when we traveled?
What if we used it in case of emergency?
This is something to make you go ...hmm...where is my Bible?
Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.
Makes you stop and think where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!
Have a blessed and wonderful day!

Birthdays in Our Parish Family in Oct. and Nov.

October 02 Samantha Jo Sparks and Sharon Valentine,
03 Katie Braun, 09 Suzanne Blunk, 12 Don Maxwell, 14 Trish Pitt,
18 Jerri Rupert and Lisa Pullem, 19 Chip Valentine,
20 Rachel Craycraft, 21 Brent Clark, and 28 Libby Adams

November 01 David Stewart, 04 Miles Mussetter, 08 Jim Adams,
11 Ryder Riggs, 14 Martha Ross, 17 Brian Gunnoe and
Charles Watson, 19 George Fleshman, 22 Thomas Blunk, and
26 Ray Franks

The deadline for the next Crucifer is November 3. Please have all articles for submission in to the office by the above date.



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The Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls, Bishop
The Rev. Mann S. Valentine, Rector
Dr. Carol M. Greene, Music Minister

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