Enjoy An Evening of Song and Celebration at Calvary on December 8th

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Thursday December 8th and will give guests the rare opportunity to see Calvary after dark. Guests are invited to join us as we listen to holiday music performed by local choirs, decorate holiday cookies, and view illuminated angel statues while on a horse and carriage ride. The Oakwood High School Choir, Holy Angels Choir, and Ritter Werner musical ensemble will perform the holiday music in the historic St. Henry Chapel. Because the holiday season is about giving to others, we encourage guests to bring canned food items that will be donated to the local Food Bank.

Do you have a piece of Calvary history?

What would you do with an old postcard dating back to 1909 that is in your possession? Tom Waker was in this predicament and chose to donate that postcard to Calvary. Since Calvary opened in 1872, thousands of documents have been saved, some in great condition and others nearly falling apart. Calvary is in the process of scanning each of these documents into a database, which will eventually be well organized and ready to be called a historical archive. This is an ongoing project, but we request that the community and anyone with ties to Calvary donate any old documents, pictures, postcards, etc. to our archives.

UD Student serves as Public Relations & Marketing Intern

Valerie Akerhielm is Calvary Cemetery's latest addition to the staff. She will be working as a Public Relations intern for Karla Hollencamp, the Manager of Marketing and Community Relations. Valerie is from Indianapolis, IN and is a senior at the University of Dayton. She is majoring in public relations and minoring in psychology. Valerie played volleyball for the Flyers for two seasons but decided she wanted to focus on her studies her final two years. With more free time and an urge to learn more about the communication field she joined Phi Beta Chi, the Honors Communication Fraternity at UD. This past summer she studied abroad in China for a month, studying intercultural communications.

New Fence completes Calvary's Front Gates

Early this fall a new fence was put in, extending out from the front gates of Calvary. With this new addition came a new discovery. We found that many people were not aware that Calvary closes every night at 7:30 p.m. The next time you plan on visiting Calvary please remember that the gates do close at 5:30 p.m. EST each evening.

Father Lawrence Mierenfeld Blesses the Spirit of the Living Water

On October 30th, 2011 guests gathered at Calvary for an All Souls Day Service followed by the blessing of the Spirit of the Living Water garden and a daffodil bulb planting. Father Lawrence “Stretch” Mierenfeld led the service in the chapel. Once the service was finished the congregation relocated to the new garden. Refreshments were provided for the guests as Father Stretch and Rick Meade, Superintendent, each said a few words about the garden and its symbolism to the cemetery. Guests were then asked to plant a daffodil bulb to symbolically stand for new life. The garden will have its grand opening Memorial Day weekend when flowers are in bloom.
Are you interested in history, art or gardening? Join our volunteer program!

Calvary is searching for volunteers who have a love for art, architecture, history and gardening. Volunteers will help out in various ways such as serving as a tour guide assistant, doing historical research, planting and watering flower containers, and receiving special training in an annual invasive species clean up. If you are interested please contact Karla Hollencamp at khollencamp@calvarycemeterydayton.org or by calling 293-1221.

UD Hall of Fame Athletes Recognized

There are at least 21 UD Hall of Fame Athletes buried at Calvary. We are recognizing those athletes through one of our latest projects. The overall goal of the project is to show a distinct connection between Calvary, UD, and the community and to show those people who are unaware that there is a lot of history at Calvary. We also want to recognize the athletes. Research on each of the athletes is being done in order to write short biographies for them. These biographies are being read at football, basketball and baseball games during this school year. They are being read through WHIO radio.

It was a little bit of a struggle to find enough information on a lot of these athletes. Having a connection to UD was a great place to start. We contacted John Woods, a former professor at UD. He taught a Sport Media course last year and there was a project involving the Hall of Fame Athletes. Students were assigned athletes and were in charge of writing biographies on them. Research was done via Google search and the UD Archives, located at Roesch Library, among other various sources. John was kind enough to share this project with us, which has been a huge help to this project. A special thank you to John Woods, his Sport Media class and UD Archivist Sandra Braman for helping us to recognize the UD Hall of Fame Athletes.

Ed Breen and Gary Wilson share stories of well known relatives buried at Calvary

We were blessed with beautiful September weather when our historical tours took place. Ed Breen, Dayton native, school teacher and author, led the tours accompanied by Gary Wilson, family historian, during the first weekend of tours. Gary, who lives in Nashville, TN, came to Calvary a few years ago to find his grandmother's grave. He learned that his great grandfather was buried here as well and that he is a Civil War Veteran, Pat Traynor. During the tour, Gary spoke a little bit about his great grandfather.

Traynor began serving in 1861 and within four years he was promoted to Corporal. He only served until 1865. In those four years his unit marched thousands of miles and fought in many battles such as Gettysburg, 2nd Bull Run, Battle of Chancellorsville, Missionary Ridge and Sherman's March to Atlanta.

Ed Breen then shared many details of the Ohmer, Ferneding, Focke and Breen families including his great grandmother, Marie Berno. Berno was an aspiring young actress and dancer. In the early 1920's she was Fred Astaire's dance partner for several productions. She then married Elmer Focke, Breen's great grandfather. She chose to give up her career as an actress and dancer when she got married so she could focus on her new role as a wife and mother.

Corporal Patrick Traynor in 1865

Marie Berno Focke

Traynor's Regiment Ohio 73rd Regiment marching in Chillicothe