

Greetings to Members of Calvin Presbyterian Church,

The circumstances which led the Conboy family to RI were God directed because there is no other reason for me (us) to have moved from the "security" of ministry in Western Pennsylvania to a ministry in RI with a congregation "just born". But, for now, we are going to concentrate with reflections to a wonderful congregation in honor of fifty years of ministry in Cumberland, the state of RI and to the ends of the earth.

Congratulations to the faithful members of the Calvin Presbyterian Church as you celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your incorporation as a congregation. Under the faithful guidance of Rev. William Silbert (D.A.'s Father) two historic Presbyterian congregations, the First Presbyterian Church of Lonsdale, and the Central Falls United Presbyterian Church "joined together" to become one "new" congregation (an Ecclesiastical marriage, if you will). The Building Committee, after much thought and visits, settled on a Stanmar "prefab" building...a decision based on "budget" and basic church needs. Later on, as space needs expanded the Fellowship Hall was expanded. In a few more years a major addition for Youth Group meeting space, Church School classes and Choir room/Hand Bell space were added.

But Calvin has always been much more than "building and space". Faithful, vibrant active folks, like you, have made the congregation a living witness to the presence of Christ in Cumberland and beyond. Before local food banks, Calvin folks were distributing food boxes (\$50 of food for \$12), church meeting space was available to groups like AA and the La Leche program (an extension group from Women's and Infant's Hospital). Calvin was present when The House of Compassion was "born" and served as catalyst of Young Life of RI (financial, leadership and youth participants). Before all the emphasis on childcare, Calvin was privileged to have Debbie Carroll's "Littlest Angels" "ministry" call Calvin "home" for several years. The "Angels" were the most adorable "tenants" a church could have.

Calvin's vision of service to the Presbyterian Church beyond RI is self-evident. You have had two Moderators of the General Assembly preach. Harriett Nelson was with us for the celebration of our 100th Anniversary at our celebratory dinner and worship the next day. The editor of the "new" (at the time) Presbyterian Hymnal preached at the Sunday Service they were dedicated. Calvin was featured nationally in an issue of Presbyterians Today (our monthly church magazine). Calvin has also been dedicated to Global Mission, at one time Calvin had a "Specific Support" relationship on five Continents (Europe, South America, Asia, Africa). It was always a blessing when they visited.

Calvin Presbyterian Church is not a building on Angell Road in Cumberland RI, it is you, each and every one that has gone before, faithfully witnessing and serving ...literally, Jesus' hands and feet, sharing the Love of God in all you do. "Well done, good and faithful servants". It was our (Lois also) blessing and privilege to share in a part of that journey.

Tom Conboy