



THIS MONTH

March/April 2010



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 • (734) 769-0869 • calvary1415@att.net • <http://a2calvary.org>

pastor's ponderings



I hope that you have been blessed through the first two weeks of the "24 Hours That Changed The World Sermon Series." I have found the reading and

the studying required to write the sermons to be incredibly interesting and I feel like I've experienced something new through the process. I love Lent. I love the possibility of growing closer to God, I love the reminder of how great the love of Christ is, I love the coming of spring, and I love the coming of Easter. I find this season to be full of God's love.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. The word Lent comes from the word "lengthen" because Lent takes place as the days lengthen in Spring, (at least in the northern hemisphere.) The season is time to prepare spiritually for Easter. Historically, this was a time when new converts to the faith were prepared for Baptism. It is also a time when people who had committed serious sins and were separated from the church were reconciled through repentance and forgiveness. It's a time when the whole congregation is reminded of the mercy and forgiveness offered to us in Christ, and the need we all have to renew our faith.

It's a season that feels like a fresh start. Some of it feels new and fresh because of the coming of spring. But even more encouraging is the reminder that I always have a new start in Jesus. I can never wonder so far off on my own that Jesus will give up on me. Anyone who is willing to do what he did for me, will never quit offering grace and forgiveness for

my shortcomings. It's a great time of year, when I am reminded daily of how great His love is for me. And the season ends with the great celebration of Easter. It's a great time of the year.

I want to encourage you all, not to wait until Easter to come experience the love. The power of Easter morning is so much more meaningful, when you reflect on all that Jesus had to go through to get to Easter. It is the ultimate gift of love, given for you and me. Come to church, come to Bible study, during this time and then come celebrate on Easter morning!



The Promise of Easter

On another subject.... Your opinion matters. However, I can't read your mind. If there is something going on that you want more information about, or if you wonder why it happened that way, please come and ask me. If there is something that you think should be done differently, come talk to me about it, even if I can't change it, we can understand and be respectful each other's opinions. I really am open to talking, I will always try to make the right decision for the church as a whole, but I want to be informed of everyone's feelings. If I don't hear feedback on things that are happening around here, then I assume everyone is happy. I would much prefer an honest conversation with you than someone else coming to me and saying "I've heard a few people talking..." I enjoy talking with people, I like getting to know people better, and I love talking about the ministry of the church. Let's do lunch or have coffee and talk.

Grace and Peace,

Beth

the bishop's day – saturday, march 13 at albion college

There are some members of our congregation attending this day of worship and workshops. The speaker for the day is Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. For more information contact Rev. Titus or check the bulletin board in the narthex.

bible study

This season of Lent we are studying a book called *24 Hours That Changed The World*, by Adam Hamilton. There are two opportunities to participate in this study, Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.



the rotating shelter program

We explored the possibility of hosting the rotating shelter for a week this winter. After seeing the interest to help out, I decided that we needed some time to plan for this kind of commitment and would like us as a congregation to consider how next winter we can support this program and other homeless programs. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help and I will be contacting you next year.

fellowship/refreshment time

After morning worship there is a short time of gathering and greeting before Sunday School begins. We need help for set up and clean up. During fall and winter months the coffee and hot water will be ready from breakfast. The church provides chips, nuts, cookies and beverages. You are always welcome to bring a "special treat".

We need helping hands. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.



**Sign UP
TODAY!**

sunday continental breakfast

A continental breakfast is ready for you to enjoy each Sunday morning between 8:30 and 9:30. Items include fresh fruit, various cold cereals, hot oatmeal, bagels, toast, waffles or pancakes, milk, juice and coffee. On occasions we even have wonderful homemade "sticky buns" and egg casseroles.

Breakfast is a great time to relax and spend time with each other talking, listening to the music or just eating. There is no cost. Everyone is welcome and it's also nice to bring a friend. If you have questions contact Van Monroe.

new michigan area publication

The first edition of *The Michigan Area Reporter* has been published. It is published in connection with *The United Methodist Reporter*. It is a monthly publication that contains both local and worldwide United Methodist news. There are a few sample copies in the narthex. There are order forms there for those who would like to subscribe to his publication.

worship changes

You may have noticed a different "look" for celebration time during our Sunday morning worship service. The Worship Committee and our Praise/Celebration Leaders decided to experiment with a new format. Multiple praise leaders are all serving together, and are now up on the altar for celebration time. The larger praise leader group gives us additional flexibility in Celebration Time activities - perhaps some Sunday soon we'll incorporate a liturgical skit! Of course we're always looking for additional praise leaders and would welcome your involvement (see Ed Wier of Rev. Titus).



Serve the Lord with Gladness

The love of God is constant - but our response to that love in worship is always changing. Some of you may recall our study on the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" based upon the book by Robert Schnase. We ask for your prayers as we continue our efforts in the "practice of passionate worship" at Calvary.

youth group scoop



The youth are preparing for our "Motown Mission" trip to downtown Detroit. We will spend a week helping to rebuild homes, parks and neighborhoods. This spring we will be focusing on fundraising. Here are some of our planned fundraising activities....

- March 14: Can and bottle drive--bring us your returnables and we turn them into MISSION WORK!
- April 30: Birthday party with music entertainment by Linda Losse and her group, the *Silver Strings Dulcimer Society*
- May: Flower sale- buy Mother's Day hanging baskets and later, your flats for summer
- May 15: Talent show--come and enjoy fun and fellowship
- June 19: Rummage sale- bring in your old, unwanted items and we will sell them at this community wide event.

hospitality committee

The Hospitality Committee has been working on fixing up the appearance of the bathrooms and fellowship hall. The committee's next meeting is on Tuesday April 20, 2010 at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome. How do we meet and greet visitors? What can we do to make the building more inviting? Help us continue to work on these and other issues.

Hospitality Committee



sanctuary committee

A new committee has been established to explore possibilities for renovating the sanctuary. The next meeting is March 28, 2010 immediately following the church service. Come and help us create short term and long term goals. We would like to hear your thoughts.

note:

Remember that all meetings are open to ALL members of our congregation. Please feel free to attend meetings that interest you.

tuesday morning breakfast

Join the Calvary Breakfast group that meets each Tuesday at 7 am at the Flim Flam Restaurant to discuss the last week's sermon, for fellowship and to re-charge our spiritual batteries mid-week.

bring in your books

Do you have any books, Christian study materials, Bibles ,etc., lying around which you could spare for CRI, Christian Resources International?

This organization, located in Fowlerville, Mi., sends many and NEEDS many materials. Please put any of the materials for CRI in the box provided in the Narthex by March 28 and they will be delivered. Any questions, ask Sandra Jameson.

a2calvary.org

Check out the Calvary website! Find pictures of recent events, many months of newsletters available and see all about upcoming sermons and activities. What are you interested in having on the website? Ideas? Talk to Karen Woollams.



note from jackie goerke

Dear Calvary United Methodist Church family,
You will always be my Church no matter how far I travel. I'm doing very well here in Texas with my family and I do like my new apartment home very much. All my friends ask me to go back to Michigan and take the COLD weather with me. Austin has had the coldest winter ever, and my electric bills are going out of the door, window, and chimney (if I had one.)

Thank you for all your e-mails from Calvary and the monthly newsletter.

God bless and all my love,

Jackie Goerke



birthdays**march**

- 1 Mark Roberts
- 3 J.R. Leonard
- 5 Keith Jameson
- 8 Amanda Lowe
- 9 Elaine Roberts
- 11 Pam Grob
- 14 George Bigelow
- 15 Pam Totten
- Peter Smith
- 17 Abigail DeVee
- Ryleigh Lowe
- 19 Matthew Turner
- 23 Paul Grob
- 24 John Freeman
- Regina Noland
- Rose Gorgas
- 26 Amy Roberts
- 26 Doralea Skomp

**april**

- 2 George Thompson
- 4 Allison Wier
- 5 Richard Fischer
- 7 Derek DeVee
- Jim Acheson
- 8 Susan Johnson
- 9 Ann Isbell
- 10 Renee Griffin
- Ben Palumbo
- 13 Kathy Sanders
- 16 Nub Turner
- Steve Roberts
- 17 Jason Eyestone
- Melanie (Simpson) Malec
- 18 Jennie Viery
- 24 Dion Woolfolk
- 25 Brian Lin
- 27 Betty Wier
- 30 Peggy Thompson

**anniversaries****march**

- 12 Joann and Ken Huff

april

- 21 Peg and Jerry Leonard



the refrigerator page

(you know, to hang on the frig door, so you don't miss anything)
Check your bulletin for details and dates and times that may change.

mark your calendars now

BISHOP'S DAY – Saturday, March 13 at Albion College

The featured speaker is Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *The Five Practice of Fruitful Congregations*. For more information contact Rev. Titus or check the bulletin board in the narthex.

YOUTH CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE – March 14

Bring in your returnables and the youth will turn them into MISSION WORK! Youth will also be collecting from houses in the area who leave their returnables out for the mission project.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS – Sunday, March 14 at 2 am

Spring forward and get to church on time!



BIRTHDAY PARTY MISSION FUNDRAISER WITH THE SILVER STRINGS DULCIMER SOCIETY – Friday, April 30 at 7 pm

Raise money for Calvary Mission work (the youth mission trip to Detroit, the well for our sister church in Liberia, and Habitat for Humanity's Good News House) with others from your birthday month! Entertainment from Linda Losse's group, the *Silver Strings Dulcimer Society*. Potluck dinner with birthday cakes specially made for each birthday month. Sign-up will be available in the narthex in April.

YOUTH FLOWER SALE –

Opportunities in May to buy Mother's Day hanging baskets and later, your flats for summer

TALENT SHOW – May 15

Come and enjoy fun and fellowship! Entertainment by us for our entertainment and a fundraiser for missions.

RUMMAGE SALE – June 19

Bring in your old, unwanted items and we will sell them at this community wide event.

holy week schedule

Sunday, March 28 -- Palm/Passion Sunday worship - 10:30 am

This service will include the Procession of Palms and lead us into the service which will be the fifth sermon in a series called "24 Hours That Changed The World."

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 pm

We will share in a communion service and remember the instructions of Jesus at the Last Supper.

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday Service - 12:00 noon

Come and draw close to the cross, think about that day and remember the love that Christ has for each of us.

Easter Morning

Sunrise Chapel Service - 7:30 am

Breakfast - 8:30 am

Celebration of Worship - 10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt - 11:00 am

Come and join us for this special morning of celebration!

Each service will be different so come for the whole morning!



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Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15