



THIS MONTH

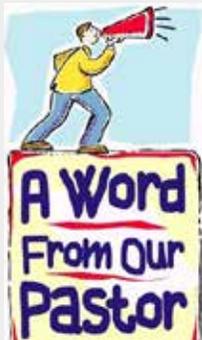
March/April 2016



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

minister's message



In Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit, a believer confesses to God, "At times my heart is drawn away from your loving purpose and way. My spirit leans toward the unloving thought, the unloving word. I am prone to turn away from you and to embrace those

things I know to be wrong and harmful."

There are seasons where we might also find ourselves lifting up a prayer much like this one. As we all know, staying on the straight and narrow path of radical love and obedience is not always an easy task. Instead, our hearts are prone to wander and even our best effort to be faithful followers can become a dead, hollow routine.

If you find yourself in a season of spiritual apathy, I encourage you to keep up the good fight. If you don't feel like coming to church on Sunday, well, attend anyway. If you don't feel in your heart you can sing the songs with conviction, sing them anyway. Or, if participating in the needed functions of the church feel like a boring chore, please do them anyway.

Years ago, when I found myself in a rough patch, the last thing I wanted to do was

wake up for church and praise God. Yet, out of habit, I forced myself to attend a service. For the first one or two songs, I stood with arms folded and eyes half opened. My heart was not in it, and I wondered why I even bothered showing up at all. However, by the third song, as I listened to the whole church congregation sing in unison, I was strangely warmed. I could not help but sing as well. I can still remember the song. It was Hillsong's "From the Inside Out."

I share this story to remind you that we carry and lift up each other in our faith journeys. By simply greeting someone, singing a hymn during service, or making sure the church bills are being paid, I can guarantee you have played an integral part in breathing life back into another's spiritual life. In this way, I thank you and desire to echo the words found in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 this Lent, "So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."

In Christ,

Andy

kudos korner

Congratulations to Rose Smith-Woollams on her December graduation from Columbia College Chicago Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations. Rose recently moved to Oakland, California.

Congratulations to Derek DeVee, grandson of Connie Nichols, who graduated in December with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy.

Congratulations to Jess and J.R. Leonard who are expecting their first child this month! The miracle of new life and the wonderment of parenthood are about to begin!!

Congratulations to Elaine Roberts who celebrates her 90th birthday on March 9th. How awesome it is to be able to keep praising the Lord!!

Congratulations to R.J. Schildhouse who recently presented a poster at a professional conference in San Diego, CA. R.J. is a physician and uses his knowledge, talent and skill to serve the patients at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital.

Congratulations to Rob Sheu who was accepted into the PhD program at Case Western University in Cleveland, OH! He has been working as a Staff Accountant for the firm Post, Smythe, Lutz, and Ziel in Plymouth, Michigan since 2012. His responsibilities include "Corporate" and "Individual" accounting and taxes and he does audits of local governments. In his PhD program at Case Western Reserve he wants to focus in "Experimental" audit re-

search. This approach involves a bit

of psychology and focuses on auditor behavior and decision-making. Experimental research is slowly becoming more popular. His long-term goal is to become a professor who is an active researcher in various areas of accounting as well as a teacher who inspires his students. Rob shared the following; "I want to use this opportunity/position to let my faith in Christ shine through. Hopefully I will be a positive influence to my fellow colleagues as well as a professor who truly cares about the growth of his students." We will miss Rob as an active part of our music ministry and finance committee while he pursues his advanced education goals starting in July, but pray

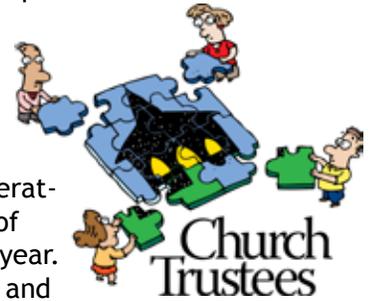


for his success in this new endeavor!

Congratulations to Melanie and Brad Hamilton who became grandparents (via daughter Betsy) in December and also their son Zachary is engaged.

trustees corner

With many of your ideas, input, and labor, the Trustee Board has again been hard at work over the past year to help maintain, enhance and plan for the physical property needs of both the church and the parsonage. Balancing the resources we have, we kept up with routine maintenance issues and explored other opportunities to improve various aspects of our two buildings and to optimize our revenue generating potential from rental of various spaces during the year. Some projects were small and less time consuming. Others were quite extensive and prolonged.



Highlights:

We secured a new lease agreement with a seemingly compatible group for usage of the large downstairs space that was previously used for children's activities. Modifications to the room were approved as part of the lease arrangement.

The lighting in the sanctuary, particularly over the pastor's podium and the altar table, was improved with additional lights installed. The electrical wiring in the circuit breaker box was also changed to bring it up to code.

The audio system, which had been malfunctioning frequently, was upgraded with newer technology and better sound equipment.

Perhaps the most celebrated project that was long overdue was the painting of the exterior of the building!! We were grateful to apply for and subsequently receive a grant from the District Church Office to help with this expensive project and supplement contributions from our Calvary church family. The finished painting project is esthetically pleasing and has given our building a welcome face-lift!

Still working on the exterior, a concept for a new billboard type sign that faces Miller Avenue was adopted and the sign was installed in April--just in time for the arrival of Spring. Troop 5 Boy

Scouts helped with our annual Spring Clean-Up Day. We are also grateful for the gardening/planting/pruning/watering expertise that was provided by church volunteers to beautify our grounds and for those who offered their talent to either create a new flower garden at the parsonage or clean out/move materials at the church to eliminate clutter, accommodate new groups, and get rid of old furniture from church property.

At the parsonage several high priority projects were completed to make things a little more snappy for our newly wed pastor and his wife.

As our facilities age, there are evolving issues that require attention and we aim to be responsive to needs as they arise yet stay within the confines of the resources available. Sometimes it is easy to forget that our church building and parsonage are valuable assets that should give us all a sense of pride. It takes a lot to ensure that we have an attractive/welcoming place to worship and our pastor and wife have an appealing house they can call 'home'. We thank everyone who helped in some big or small way. In summary, we are glad winter 2016 is almost behind us and spring is about to emerge. The current trustees are appreciative of your support throughout the year and of the faithful service of all those that have previously served the church in this capacity. Happy Easter everyone and please come out and help on Spring Clean-up Day in May!!

easter joy

Join in the Joy at our Easter Celebration on March 27! An Easter Egg Hunt will follow the service for the young and young at heart.



spaghetti dinner plans

Join us for the next Calvary Cooks community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, April 30. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for kids 5-12, and ages 4 and under are free (cash and checks are ac-

cepted). The menu includes spaghetti with meat or vegetarian sauce, salad, garlic bread, and desserts. Details available at <http://a2calvary.org>.

There are opportunities to volunteer to help with the dinner or just come for a great meal!

house by the side of the road

Thanks again for your important contributions of clothing and other items for House by the Side of the Road.

Sandra Jameson delivered seven large bags of clothes to help out our neighbors.



boy scout sunday

Calvary enjoyed another great Boy Scout Sunday on Sunday, February 7 with many boy scouts and their families in attendance. The leader presented an award of thanks for Calvary's sponsorship of their troop and the color guard presented a flag ceremony.





birthdays

march

- 1 Mark Roberts
- 3 J.R. Leonard & Chris Wallace
- 5 Keith Jameson
- 8 Amanda Lowe
- 9 Elaine Roberts (90)
- 14 George Bigelow
- 17 Abigail DeVee & Ryleigh Lowe
- 18 Hannah Wallace
- 24 Regina Noland



april

- 2 George Thompson
- 4 Allison Wier
- 5 Richard Fischer
- 7 Derek DeVee
- 8 Susan Johnson
- 10 Renee Griffin
- 13 Kathy Sanders
- 16 Steve Roberts
- 18 Jennie Viery
- 24 Dion Woolfolk
- 29 Brad Hamilton
- 30 Peggy Thompson

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.

TRUSTEE MEETING – Monday, March 7, 5:30 pm

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MTG – Thursday, March 10, 5:30 pm

PRE-PI DAY PIE CELEBRATION – Sunday March 13

Enjoy pies during fellowship following church in honor of Pi Day on 3.14

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING – Sunday, March 15, 6:30 pm

PALM CROSS-MAKING PARTY – Thursday, March 17,

6 pm dinner and 7 pm palm cross assembly

You're invited to dinner and fun making palm crosses for the Palm Sunday service at the Wier's house. See Judy Wier for more information.

BOOK DISCUSSION WITH INSIGHT MEDITATION – Friday, March 18, 7-9 pm

IMA2 invites us to an event they are hosting: In the book "Being Mortal" Dr. Atul Gawande discusses the medicalization of mortality and its consequences, including loss of independence, separation from loved ones, and patient and family financial strain. This book discussion group, facilitated by Dr. Sheryl Kurze MD, a physician with expertise in end-of-life care, will provide the opportunity for participants to reflect on the care of their loved ones, on the care they may want for themselves in the future and when "less is more" might be the best care plan.

EASTER CELEBRATION – Sunday, March 27

Easter service followed by Easter Egg Hunt for kids!

DONATION COLLECTION – April 10 (and every 2nd Sunday)

CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER –

Saturday, April 30, 5-8 pm

Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for kids 5-12, and ages 4 and under are free (cash and checks are accepted). The menu includes spaghetti with meat or vegetarian sauce, salad, garlic bread, and desserts. Details available at <http://a2calvary.org>. There are opportunities to volunteer to help with the dinner or just come for for a great meal!

DONATION COLLECTION – May 8 (and every 2nd Sunday)

BLOCK PARTY – Saturday, June 18, 3-5 pm

Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy this family friendly *free* event including a bounce house and slide, games with prizes, popcorn and ice cream sundaes! Details to come soon--find out how you can participate!

Weekly Activities:

HOLY YOGA – Tuesdays, 5:15 pm

Enjoy a weekly yoga class with scripture and praise music to heal the body and soul! Open to all--walk ins welcome at \$10/class.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY – contact Pastor Andy for new schedule

Dial Soap Collection for the Delonis Shelter continuous donations accepted in basket in the narthex!



He is
RISEN



**Spaghetti
Dinner**

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1415 Miller
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

Rev. Andy Lee, Pastor
1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

(734) 769-0869
calvary1415@att.net
<http://a2calvary.org>

Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15

Still want a printed newsletter?

Calvary has transitioned to a primarily digital newsletter. *If you would like to continue to receive a printed newsletter, let us know by calling or writing Calvary (see contact information above). Thanks!*

To make sure you get the digital newsletter, send your email address to Karen Woollams <woollams@umich.edu> or check out our website at <http://a2calvary.org/>