



# THIS MONTH

March/April 2011



## The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### pastor's ponderings



There are many good conversations going on around Calvary. It is really good to see people excited about church.

There is the on-going conversation about the

sanctuary and what changes we might want to make as we plan worship for us and what the impact could be for generations to come. Our sanctuary is beautiful, it has some great modern lines, and carries sound really well, some good planning when into the building of this church. And yet, as time as gone by, there is a lot of wear on the floor, and there are needs for electrical upgrades and changes in the way we worship, lead some to believe that we should make some changes in the sanctuary. The meetings that have been held with the congregation and various groups around the church have been very helpful. The Sanctuary Committee has collected a lot of good thoughts and ideas. They will continue to develop a plan to lead us into the future.

At the last Ad Board meeting, it was decided that Calvary would hire a "Worship Leader." This new position will assist with our current worship service and help in the development and implementation of a new second service. They will not replace any of our current, valuable, talented leaders in worship. They will work with this leadership to help with the flow and hopefully help with the slide presentations. The hiring of this person also brings another creative mind to worship design. The Staff Parish Committee and Worship Committee are working together as we look at applicants.

Our goal is to offer quality worship services that inspire, teach and praise our God.

And now as we begin our Lenten journey, I hope we have conversations about LOVE. There is a book that many people are reading, *The Most Loving Place in Town*, by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges. I am designing our Lenten series with the topics that come up in this book. The book is engaging and has people talking. I have ordered a few more to handout and I know people are willing to share the books. It is also available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. (about \$11, Cokesbury only has it in hard cover \$19) Let me know if you are looking for one.

All of these conversations are exciting and productive.. However, these conversations may lead to other conversations, and then questions. Because this is such an exciting time in our church, I want to make myself available for conversations. If you've asked yourself, "What was/is our pastor thinking?" Now you can find out. I am hosting "What's She Thinking?" gatherings about once a month. They will be at different times and in different places around town, to make them available to more people. Have a question you've always wanted to ask, are wondering why the church leadership has made a certain decision, then come and ask and I will do my best to answer. The first one will actually be at church, join me for light refreshments on March 30th at 10:00am. The next one will be on April 12th at 6:30 pm, we'll meet at Panera's on Eisenhower.

I am looking forward to having many conversations in the months to come.

*Beth*

## it's lent!

In the past Lent was a time of preparation for new Christians, who were preparing to join the church at the Easter Vigil. More currently, we use Lent as a time to focus on our relationship with God. How are we doing in our faith as we live each day? Are the things in our life that we need to change?

This year, I am doing a series called "Making Love Known." It is based on the book *The Most Loving Place in Town*, which I highly recommend. It's easy to read but asks thought provoking questions.

Please try to be in church during Lent, attend a small group, Tuesday morning, Bible Study, Sunday School, or all of the above. Be part of the conversation.

March 13 - "Priority #1 - Love God"

March 20 - "Forgiven Much, Love More"

March 27 - "Love - Roadblocks and Reconciliation"

April 3 - "God loves you and forgives you! - Do you?"

April 10 - "Building the Loving Community"

April 17 - PALM SUNDAY - Rev. Lee Dolman, a United Methodist Pastor, will be our guest this morning. He will bring a message in word and song. A great day to invite a friend.

April 24 - EASTER Celebration

8:00 - Sunrise Service

8:30 - Easter Breakfast

10:00 - Easter Worship

-- Egg Hunt for kids following the worship service

## youth group scoop

The Calvary Youth Group is working with adult leaders to plan for our second annual Mission Trip. We were so moved by our stay in Detroit, that we are considering a trip back to continue our mission of service. Please pray for guidance for our Youth and Leaders as we plan for summer 2011.



Calvary Youth will collect returnable cans and bottles from our Calvary neighbors on March 20. Proceeds from this project will go to support our summer mission trip.

Warm up your vocal chords, dust off your ukulele, and shine up your tap shoes for Calvary's Got Talent Two! Mark your calendars for the second annual Calvary talent show on May 7, 2011. Come and witness some of the most amazing acts, have a delicious meal and enjoy fun and fellowship. Your free will donations will be used to support our summer mission trip. Look for sign up sheets in the Narthex in April.

## trustee corner

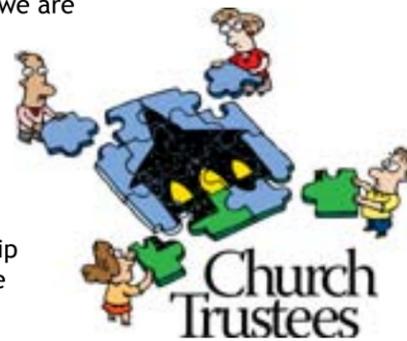
The Trustees have decided to start including a brief article in the newsletter in an effort to keep members informed of current projects that are being worked on. First of all, the Trustees would like to thank the trustees who had terms that expired on December 31, 2010. Your efforts and service helped the Church and were appreciated by everyone.

Van Monroe and Val Losse were elected co-chairs for the Trustees.

We are in the process of trying to set some short term and long term projects for the Church and the parsonage. If you have ideas that you believe should be included on the lists, please let us know. At the same time, we are creating a master list of maintenance / inspections that needs to happen on a recurring basis. If you are aware of items that should be added to the list, please let us know.

Hopefully in the next few weeks you will notice some of the changes we are decided to make in the Church (e.g., new light fixtures outside the bath-rooms by fellowship hall, replacing some of the broken / missing blinds in fellowship hall, new lights in the pastor's office).

Tentatively, we have set Saturday May 7th, 2011 for our Spring Clean Up day. Please put the date in your calendar and plan on joining us. If you have projects that we should add to our clean-up list please let us know.



## how special are you

In the last article from the Finance Committee, we discussed the General Fund and the basic financial working of our church. In this article we address "special contributions." These are sometimes called "pass through contributions" or designated funds. These contributions arise two ways. Sometimes the church has a special need or desire to contribute to a special cause and seeks funds for a special item or donation. For example the leadership of the church might decide we need to replace a furnace or lights or it might request donations



for a special contribution to UMCOR or Habitat for Humanity. Other times an individual might have a special inspiration (perhaps

posthumously) and donate money for a particular purpose.

While Calvary doesn't keep a special checking account for these funds, they are carefully earmarked by the treasurer and are not spent except as designated. This is why we must be careful not to confuse our checking account balance with the general fund balance. Our checking account balance can look quite healthy but we can still be broke if all the funds are special or pass through contributions.

Calvary's special contributions have been growing and we want to encourage this as long as we don't forget to keep the general fund healthy, keeping in mind that there are no special contributions if there isn't a church community.

Wesleyan tradition says that we should be good stewards of money. Any donation to Calvary United Methodist, special or not, is deductible if you itemize your taxes. You will get a receipt as proof. If you feel guilty about paying less in taxes, you can always increase your gift until your total donation is equivalent to your gift plus the value of the donation.

As Christians we know that we are all special in God's eyes, but now we hope that you know something about being "specialer."

## from ruth

Suggestion:

Most people have two ears and one mouth. It has been suggested that we talk less and listen more. It has been suggested that we not only listen but actually hear what is being said.

Thanks:

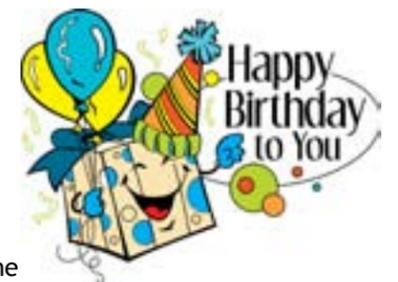
to those who donate metal tabs from cans, and give eye glasses. Please continue to do so and leave these items in the counter in the narthex. Such giving helps many people in need.

## it's time to party

Happy Birthday to all of us! Celebrate your birthday and help Calvary's mission projects, including Habitat for Humanity, the youth summer mission trip and others. Last year Calvary raised \$900 for missions at this event and November folks collected the most (June came in second place).

Come on **Saturday, March**

**26** for a potluck dinner at 7 pm and party fun and games at 7:45 pm. Sign ups are in the narthex or see Karen Woollams.



## newsletter online

Reminder: if you want to be among the first to see the newsletter, join the THIS MONTH online email group and save paper and postage too! Just give Karen Woollams your email address.



**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
- 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

*Celebrating an Anniversary*



**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.

**CHANGE THE WORLD PLANNING MTG – Tuesday, March 22, 6:00 pm**

Part of the UMC "Rethink Church" campaign, Change the World is a global movement of United Methodists doing what they can to improve lives and community scheduled for mid-May.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MTG – Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 pm**

All are invited to attend and participate in the administration of our church.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY MISSION FUND-RAISER – Saturday, March 26, 7:00 pm potluck dinner, 7:45 fun and games!**

Raise money for Calvary Mission work with others from your birthday month! Potluck dinner with birthday cakes specially made for each birthday month. Sign-ups for bringing cakes and attending are in the narthex.

**TRUSTEES MTG – Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 pm**

**WORSHIP MTG – Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm**

**NURTURE/OUTREACH MTG – Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 pm**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Sunday, April 17**

**EASTER – April 24**

Join us for Sunrise Service at 8 am, Easter Breakfast at 8:30, Easter Worship at 10 am and Egg Hunt for kids after the worship service. Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY – Saturday, May 7**

**CALVARY'S GOT TALENT – Saturday, May 7**

**Weekly Activities:**

**TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST at Flim-Flam Restaurant, 7 am**

Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship at Flim-Flam Restaurant on Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor.

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at 7 pm**

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST 8:30-9:30**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERMON SERIES "Making Love Known"**

If you'd like a copy of the book the sermon series is based on, "The Most Loving Place in Town" by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges, please let Pastor Beth know. It seems to be motivating very meaningful conversation and will be a resource for Wednesday Bible studies as well.



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Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

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Rev. Beth D. Titus, Pastor  
1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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Sunday Worship 10:00  
Sunday School 11:15