



THIS MONTH

May/June 2010

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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pastor's ponderings



millions of pesky dandelions in my yard). The spring is so full of fresh new life and the earth now seems to fully awake after a long winter nap. I love it!

When we think of new life, we think of new babies and fresh starts and perhaps Easter celebrations. I am seeing a lot of new life around church these days, that might not be as obvious as spring coming. I am witnessing new life in people, who have discovered the joy of generosity. I have seen new life in old relationships, were a reconciliation and a new outlook have changed the relationship. I am seeing people find a new excitement about ministry, through Bible study and mission projects. I am experiencing a new hunger in people wanting to study and understand the Word of God in a new way. People are discovering new ways to worship joyfully, grow in

The weather is warming up and the world is looking so beautiful as the trees have filled in with new leaves and the spring flowers are blooming, (including the

Christ, and serve in love. It's so exciting to see new life in our church.

I invite you to experience something new on your faith journey. Our faith can become stale and uninteresting if we don't allow ourselves a new experience. It might mean finding a new way to serve in our church or somewhere in the community. It might mean attending a Bible study, or leading a Bible study. Or maybe you can find a new friend at church, someone you haven't talked to very much or even someone you've stayed away from for some reason. Maybe it's time to practice forgiveness where you might be holding a grudge. Maybe you want to start holding yourself accountable to a daily prayer time or devotional reading. Whatever it is, I encourage you to find new life in your faith this Spring.

Our church is experiencing new life in many areas and I hope you want to be part of it. You are welcome at all the meetings where these things are being planned and where decisions are being made. We would encourage to come and find out what's going on and get involved.

Grace and Peace,

Beth

trustee news

The trustees are planning their **annual church cleanup day Saturday, May 15th, from 9 am - 12 noon**. Lots of help is needed for raking, trimming shrubs, pulling weeds, washing windows, distributing mulch and, in general, giving Calvary a sprucing up both inside and outside. We hope to see you there.

Several things have been recently done that have enhanced the church's appearance. The Upper Room has a fresh paint job courtesy of the youth and new ceiling lights. It is worth it to go upstairs and see how great it now looks. Fellowship Hall has had the scuffed ceiling tiles replaced and a couple of broken light covers repaired. Finally, the planter on the north side of the church entrance, which was cracked and in danger of falling apart, has been removed. Suitable plants will be placed where the planter used to be. In addition, the trustees are busy with other repairs and maintenance, including new wireless phones for the church and a new computer for the church office.

The trustees meet regularly to consider the physical needs of Calvary. We welcome all input and would invite any church member to attend our meetings. The next scheduled trustee meeting will be Tuesday, May 25th, at 7:00 p.m.

thanks for books

Seven boxes of books were taken to Christian Resources International in Fowlerville recently. Thank you for your contributions – they will be shipped in the near future.

summer music

Vocalists or instrumentalists are needed for special music this summer. Please see Sandra Jameson to make arrangements and choose when the music can be shared.



which helps Western Washtenaw residents who need a helping hand. Calvary congregation member, Doug Smith, is Program Coordinator at FIA and can answer any questions about their programs and services. Also see: <http://www.faithinaction1.org>.

Items especially needed in the FIA Food Pantry:

- Soups: Chunky, Chowder, Beef
- Mustard, Mayo, Ketsup
- Syrup
- Crackers
- Canned or frozen meat
- Juice
- Toothpaste
- Laundry Soap, Dish Soap
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Products

may is habitat month

The Habitat for Humanity Good News House is renovating two homes again in Ypsilanti this year, but the season will be back to normal from mid May through August. Calvary is signed up for work days on **Tuesday, June 29** and **Saturday, August 7**. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Making some noise – Sundays in May, we will be receiving our “Clatter Collection” to support the Good News Habitat House. Bring your “pocket” change and “make some noise” to fill our buckets for Habitat. We'll conclude the month with a special service on Sunday, May 30 when we will focus on Habitat for Humanity and collect your “major” donations to support the Good News House. Our fund raising goal this year is \$800. We have already raised over \$200 for the Good News House at the April 30 Change the World event!

If you have any questions about the Good News Habitat House, or about signing up to work on June 29 and/or August 7, please contact Karen Woollams.

**2nd sunday
food collection**

We continue to collect an offering of food items on the 2nd Sunday of each month for needy area families. The items are sent to Faith In Action

**youth group scoop**

The Youth have been working hard to transform the Upper Room into a fun and inspirational space. Come up any time to see our handiwork. Special thanks to the Trustees for their donation of

new ceiling lights and to Tom J for installing them. Watch for an invitation to visit during a future Fellowship Time.

Youth are busy fundraising for our mission trip and for our well project. Youth and several adult chaperones will spend a week in Detroit in July helping to spruce up neighborhoods. In March we collected \$143 from a can drive. In May we will have a flower sale and Talent Show/Dinner (May 15). In June we will have a Rummage Sale (June 19)...your donations of sale items are gratefully accepted at any time. We hope you will all come out to support us!

change the world

Calvary has made a step toward changing the world at the April 30 Birthday Party Mission Fundraiser with concert by Village Strings. Entertainment from Linda Losse's group, the Village Strings was fantastic! Much thanks to all group members. We had a typical potluck dinner (voluminous amounts of awesome food) with a special dessert of birthday cakes specially made for each birthday month. Many enjoyed a piece from several months' cakes! And to top it all off, almost \$900 was raised for the youth mission trip to Detroit, the well for our sister church in Liberia, and Habitat for Humanity's Good News House. November donors raised the most funds and June was in second place--Congratulations!

Your next fundraising opportunity is Clatter Collection for Habitat on the Sundays in May with a special collection taken later in May and the Calvary Has Talent! show on May 15 which will raise money for the youth mission trip to Detroit.



Change the World potluck



Linda Losse and Village Strings



Let them eat cake!

truck in liberia

The Conference Board of Global Ministries has decided to not fill a container with medical and UMCOR kits to be sent to Liberia at the 2010 annual conference, according to the Rev. Margie Crawford, chair of the board's Hunger/UMCOR Committee. Instead, the board will be using the annual conference session as an opportunity to raise funds to purchase a much needed delivery truck for use by the Liberia Annual Conference.

The Liberia Task Force and the conference Board of Global Ministries recently met with Bishop John Innis of the Liberia Annual Conference to discuss the Detroit Conference's covenantal relationship with Liberia. Conditions have improved dramatically since 1998, when the relationship was created, and the needs of the people of Liberia have changed during that time as well. In addition, as the government has become more stabilized, the United Methodist Church of Liberia is experiencing more and more red tape involved with the amount of funds needed to receive container shipments.

"In seeking new directions for how we may help our covenant partner, we are hoping to raise funds to help with the purchase of a truck for Liberia," Crawford said. "At our meeting, Bishop Innis spoke of how difficult it is to convey materials from the capital of Monrovia to many of the churches, especially those in more distant districts. A truck for the conference will help tremendously to deliver materials and supplies to the districts. We are asking each church in the Detroit Annual Conference to prayerfully consider how much they can give toward bridging the distance between Monrovia and the churches served by the Liberia Conference."

Crawford noted that checks may be made out to the Detroit Annual Conference, with the notation of "Liberia Truck Fund" on the memo line. Checks may be sent to the conference office, or delivered to the Board of Global Ministries table at the ministry fair during annual conference.

Crawford also stated that if local churches have already purchased material for UMCOR School, Health or Sewing Kits, please consider donating them to a school system, hospital or day care facility in or near your local community.

covenant mission offering

Each year at annual conference, a special offering is taken to go towards a mission or outreach

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project as determined by the conference Board of Global Ministries.

For Christians, a covenant is seen as an instrument by which we are bound to God and to each other. We are called to maintain our covenants, as the covenant of God is maintained with us. As the Detroit Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, our covenants with the Methodist Church of Haiti and with The United Methodist Church of Liberia call us to support each other with our prayers, our presences, and our continuing financial support.

The Detroit Conference and other conferences across the nation provide a hot lunch for nearly 20,000 children attending Methodist-supported schools in Haiti. For many, this is their only food for the entire day. Lunch costs continue to rise due to the cost of rice, transportation, and charcoal for the cooking fires. An average cost is now 50 cents (U.S.) each. Children attend school 180 days. We

will again support this effort by sending one-half of this year's offering through The Advance to the Haiti District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas.

As a conference, we also have a covenant with The United Methodist Church of Liberia. One major focus of support over the years has been the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Home. This institution provides a safe and nurturing haven for children who have been orphaned by war, abandonment, death of parents due to HIV/AIDS, or extreme economic difficulties. We will continue to support our Liberian brothers and sisters by sending one-half of this year's offering through The Advance to The United Methodist Church of Liberia for this worthwhile purpose.

It is desired that each congregation in the Detroit Annual Conference become more informed about

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birthdays

may

- 2 Nancy Roberts
- 3 Gerald Woolfolk
- 5 Christopher Griffin
- 10 Patrick Leonard
- 14 Margaret Storey
- 15 Hope Parow
Mary Ford
- 17 Julianne Roberts
- 19 Nick Navarre
- 21 Stephanie Thompson
- 22 Gail Davis Barnes
- 27 Bobbie Smith
- 29 Carol Miller
- 31 Jennifer (Rosenbaum)
Maiwurm



june

- 3 Donna Reed
- 6 Raegan Barnes
- 8 Dale Titus
- 10 Emma Parow
Laura Hayden
- 14 Caroline Roberts
- 15 Al Storey
- 16 Pat Fischer
Bev Sanders
- 24 Beth Titus
- 25 Stacy DeVee
- 27 Connie Nichols
- 29 Linda Losse

anniversaries

may

- 6 Linda and Val Losse
- 10 Jan and Nub Turner
- 28 Karen and Steve Roberts
- 30 Barbara and Chuck Willey



june

- 5 Nancy and Mark Roberts
- 7 Karen Woollams and Doug Smith
- 9 Erin and Frank Lin
- 28 Peggy and David Thompson
- 29 Renee and Chris Griffin

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**YOUTH FLOWER SALE – May**

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

**LIBERIAN MISSIONARIES – May 13 and 14**

Liberian missionaries Mary and Herbert Zigbuo are coming to Ann Arbor District in May. They are scheduled to speak at Ann Arbor First on May 13 and Milan UMC on May 14.

SPRING CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY – May 15 9 am-12 noon

Come and help spruce up our church. The Trustees will have things that need to get done and the scouts are coming to help.

TALENT SHOW – May 15 6:30 dinner, 7:15 Talent Show

Calvary's Got Talent!! There are two sign-ups in the narthex -- one to be in the show, the other to come enjoy dinner and the show. The youth are offering supper in exchange for a donation to support their summer mission trip. You will be served by a good looking young person and see a great show too. Don't forget to sign up.

**ALL ABOUT MOTOWN MISSION – Sunday, May 16**

Rev. Carl Gladstone, an ordained Deacon in the Detroit Conference and the Director of Motown Mission, will be joining us for worship. He will also be meeting with the youth group following worship. Please plan on being here to welcome him to our church.

A DAY OF CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION WITH TOM AND MARY MACAULAY – Sunday, June 13

You are invited to a special farewell event in honor of our District Superintendent, Rev. Thomas Macaulay, and his family on Sunday, June 13, 2010, at the Saline First UMC on 1200 N. Ann Arbor St. in Saline. The Day of Celebration and Appreciation will include a worship service at 3:00 p.m., followed by a light reception at (approx.) 4:00 p.m. You can participate in our gift "Messages to Tom":

A Gift for Tom's Retirement: Tell Tom what you think of him!

Would you like to tell Tom that you appreciate his ministry and friendship over the years? This is your opportunity! For Tom's retirement we are compiling a CD of messages from his many friends. This simple, free process allows everyone to speak directly to Tom. If you cannot attend the farewell event on June 13, you can still send him a personal message. Would you please contribute a message of thanks, congratulations, good wishes, etc? Tom loves people, and he would love to hear your voice. This takes less than five minutes to do. Dial this toll-free number: 1-877-687-7845 Call any time, day or night, between May 1 and May 30. When you are prompted, enter this number: 95991 You will hear a recorded message. At the tone, give your name and the name of your church (or other connection to Tom). Record your message. When you are finished, hang up, or press the # key to hear your message. You can re-do it if you wish, up to three times. Invite more people to record their toasts to Tom - the more the merrier! Questions? Call Jane at the District Office, 734-663-3939. A company called VoiceQuilt.com is compiling this CD for us.

RUMMAGE SALE – June 19

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

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Rev. Beth D. Titus, Pastor
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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15

the people of Haiti and Liberia: what they experienced through their history; how the church has been part of that history; where God is directing the church today; and how each of us can be supportive. We pray that as we learn more about our sisters and brothers, God's Spirit will sensitize us, guide us, and empower us to fulfill Christ's command to "feed my lambs."

Our Covenant Mission Offering will be collected at the Opening Worship Service of the 2010 Detroit Annual Conference, which is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 20. Prayerfully support the children of our covenant partners who have been greatly affected by war, conflict, and disasters and the poverty that those produce.

bishop's seat cover project

Once again Bishop Keaton has asked us to collect "Seat Covers" for children and youth throughout the Detroit Annual Conference.

Here are some ideas for collecting seat covers: 1) make it a youth group project; 2) have an "Undie

Sunday" to dedicate your gathered seat covers; and 3) consider making this a Lenten project.

Here are the very simple steps to make this project work:

- Collect the NEW underwear in your church (be creative and have fun doing this!)
- Count the packages, pack them up neatly, and bring them to annual conference. It is helpful if the packages are packed in stackable boxes
- Deliver to the Ministry Fair and look for the Seat Cover display. Please drop off seat covers by Friday (May 21) of conference weekend. Sign the poster with your church's name and the number of NEW "seat covers" you donated.
- Let Cathy know if you would like to distribute seat covers to an organization in your district.

It is very easy and churches had a great time collecting NEW "seat covers" last year. Please contact Rev. Cathy Freeman with any questions at 734-665-5632 or cathy-freeman27@yahoo.com.

