



THIS MONTH

November/December 2009



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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pastor's ponderings



Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words seem to capture the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half are worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported laying awake at night thinking about all of this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide." (Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy" by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008)

Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it. All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore.

We have started a sermon series entitled Enough, Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity. Over the next 4 weeks, we will continue our worship focus and a Bible study in which we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We'll listen to advice and you will get practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the series, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. The worship series will continue through November 15, with Pledge Sunday on the 15th. Bible study takes place on Tuesdays, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, and 17, at 7:00. I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity and joy.

Beth

our sister church in liberia

Our church has a sister church in Liberia! The Michigan Annual Conferences developed a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Church in Liberia. Each church was given a sister church. Our sister church is Barblozohn United Methodist Church in the Rivercess District. We can communicate through the District Superintendent via email.

As of February 6, 2009 the church needs both a latrine and a well. Clean water and appropriate sanitation prevents outbreaks of cholera, a deadly illness. The last communication was that it costs about \$1700 to dig/build a well. This is a fairly sophisticated piece of machinery, not just a hole in the ground with a bucket. It is sealed with cement on top with a pump. The wells are also dug by specific people, not just anybody with a shovel (there are political ramifications if you don't use the right people). The church's membership was around 185 members. They also have needs like Pastor's salary support, Bibles, and educational materials. They would like to start an elementary school for the area's children. Wouldn't it be exciting to be part of that?

The Calvary Youth are enthusiastic about helping with this church. They are already starting fund raising and hoping to develop "pen pals" with the Liberian teens. Watch for ways to support them in this opportunity.

calvary christmas choir

We are planning special musical selections for the month of December. We are always looking for more people to join us in singing. Choir practice is Sunday mornings at 9:00 and we are also meeting during the week as the group schedules rehearsals. If you are interested in singing with us, please see Sandra Jameson or Gerald Woolfolk for more information.



food pantry needs

Due to the economy and the upcoming holiday season, area food pantries are in great need of food and supplies. Calvary collects for our WIC families and Faith In Action, which serves families in need in Western Washtenaw County. Items can be brought to church at any time, but a special collection is on our usual 2nd Sunday collection day—November 8.

Faith In Action list of needs:

meat: fresh, frozen or canned
chili/stew
baked beans/pork and beans
pasta sauce
canned fruit
cream soups, chunky beef, chicken and ham soups
canned beets, potatoes, carrots, and peas
stuffing
macaroni and cheese
meal helpers
mayo, mustard, ketchup and syrup
healthy snacks
jello/pudding
gravy/broth
feminine products
deodorant
shampoo/conditioner
shave cream/razors
dish soap
laundry detergent
household cleaning products



progressive dinner

Join us for a Calvary tradition, the Progressive Dinner, to be held on Saturday, November 14. Appetizers will be with the Sander's at the parsonage, dinner at the Jameson's, and dessert at the Miller's house. Please sign up to participate (\$5 per person) and to bring appetizers or desserts. Much fun to be had by all!



youth in mission

Keep in mind our youth as they start raising funds and preparations for a summer mission project called *Motown Mission Experience*. So far 15 youth and adults are signed up to serve God while serving others in home repair and service work for the people of the City of Detroit from July 19-25. The group will join with other Christian groups, live at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, and will be engaged in economic disaster recovery work projects during the day. See <http://youngeadersinitiative.org/motown> for more information or talk to Dale Titus.



coming up in worship

Sunday, Nov. 8 - Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity Series
“Cultivating Contentment”

Sunday, Nov. 15 - PLEDGE SUNDAY
Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity Series
“Defined By Generosity”

Sunday, Nov. 22 - “Giving Thanks”
We will be Hanging the Greens after worship on this Sunday.

Sunday, Nov. 29 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Guest Preacher - Brad Hamilton
The Christmas Series
“RISE UP! A NEW LIGHT A-COMIN”

This year we will celebrate the coming of a new light for the world with a series of worship services designed around a musical with the same title by Lloyd Larson and Pamela Martin. Don't let the wonderful meaning of Christmas get lost in the busy season, join us on Sunday mornings and experience the anticipation of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Sunday, Dec 6 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“Rise Up! A New Light A-Comin”
Communion Sunday

Sunday, Dec 13 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“Rise Up! The Promise Will Be Fulfilled”

Sunday, Dec. 20 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“Rise Up! Everyone Rise Up!”

Thursday, Dec. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
“Rise Up! A New Light Is Here!”

Invite your friends and family, neighbors and those you meet on the street to join us for the special celebration of Christ's birth. Let's not keep it a secret, this is the best thing that ever happened to the world. Service is at 7:00pm



Sunday, Dec. 27 - CAROL SING
Guest Preacher - Steve Reed

Sunday, Jan. 3 - EPIPHANY SUNDAY
Communion Sunday

what's up with yg

Lots! This is what the youth have been up to:

- Painting the Upper Room
- Bowling fundraiser to help our sister church in Liberia
- Youth led Sunday school classes
- Planning out mission trip to Detroit in the summer

- Creating group T-shirts
- Picnicking in the Arb
- Elected new group of-
ficers (Co-presidents:
Xavier and Kristen, Vice
President: Allison, Secretary: Kelley,
Treasurer: Tyler, God Point Master: Geoffrey)
- Planning our activities for the upcoming year



birthdays

november

- 1 Chuck Willey
- 4 Ed Wier
- 6 Bonnie Andrews
- 9 Ruth Husung
- 11 Lanika Smith
- 12 Sandy Olsen
- 13 Nickolas Griffin
- 16 Jim Whitman
- 18 Marilyn Woolfolk
- 21 Beverly Bladen
- 24 Julie Simpson
- 25 Kristen Olsen
- Benjamin Gately
- 26 Melvin Kimbrough
- 27 Pam Boughton
- 29 Robyn Hughes

december

- 5 Agnes Warren
- 8 Sarah Jameson
- 18 Regina Barnes
- Bobbie Reed
- David Thompson
- 22 Judy Wier
- Susan Glysson
- 31 Gregory Parow



anniversaries

november

- 1 Paula and Neil Gates
- 26 Marilyn and John Freeman
- 26 Suzanne and Corey Woolfolk
- 29 Dottie and Keith Jameson



december

- 2 Andrea and Bill Roche
- 10 Betty and Ron Whiting
- 11 Denise and Bob Leffler
- 20 Sunyoung Shin and Ben Palumbo
- 26 Betty and Clarence Brewer
- 30 Donna Reed and Michael Parow

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

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE: Sunday, Nov. 8th after worship.

We will have a pot-luck lunch and enjoy fellowship and celebrate the ministry of the church and take care of a little business too. It's actually fun!



PROGRESSIVE DINNER - Saturday, November 14. This is a great time of fellowship with old and new friends. Sign up in the Narthex!

HANGING OF THE GREENS - Sunday, November 22. Stay after worship and help decorate the church for the Advent season. The youth will be making us lunch.



A New Small Group - The Breakfast Bunch. Come on Tuesday mornings to the Flim-Flam Restaurant, 2707 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, at 7:00 am. Enjoy the fellowship and encouragement of a great bunch of people!

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST - Don't feel like getting breakfast before you run out the door to get to church? Plan on getting here a little early and have breakfast on us! A Continental Breakfast is served Sunday mornings from 8:30 - 9:30.

(if you would like to help out with this hospitality ministry, please see Van Monroe)

up coming meetings:

Finance Committee - 4:00, November 17

Nurture/Outreach Committee - 7:30, November 19

Worship Committee - 5:30, November 5



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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