



# THIS MONTH

**November/December 2010**



## The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### pastor's ponderings



It's already November. As the year begins to come to an end, with Thanksgiving right around the corner and the Christmas season right behind it, I was

thinking about the past year and all that I am thankful for. Calvary Church is near the top of my list.

\*\*\*I am thankful for people here who come to church and encourage others in their faith. For the many people who have supported me, both professionally as a pastor and personally with things going on in my life.

\*\*\*I am thankful for those that are willing to volunteer to do what it takes to make this church a place that is welcoming to all, people

who are involved in Sunday School and the nursery welcoming young families, people who are providing refreshments for fellowship time so that we can invite guests down to the fellowship hall and get to know them better, and the people who are constantly working on the building and making it safe and welcoming for all.



\*\*\*I am thankful for the people who do the administrative tasks and make it so I don't have to worry too much about this part of ministry. We are blessed with people who are gifted in areas of book-keeping and financial management.



\*\*\*I am thankful for those that are able to care for others as they have need. For the prayer requests that are shared weekly, for the caring ministry that is being developed, for the desire to actively care for each other.

\*\*\*I am thankful for the worship leadership and the time and effort to that goes into creating worship experiences that are relevant and filled with vitality.

\*\*\* I am also thankful for the people who do the things that might not get noticed, supporting the youth group in the fundraising efforts, cleaning up after a function, putting stamps on mailings, organizing an event, getting the newsletter out, working on missions.

\*\*\* I am just plain thankful for the people of Calvary. We are a church that is alive and growing. It couldn't happen without all of you. I am thankful for each and every one of you. You are all important to life at Calvary.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Beth*

## **salvation army bell-ringing**

Make time to support the Salvation Army this year. Calvary will be ringing bells on Dec 2, 2010 from 9 am-3 pm at K-Mart in Maple Village. This is a great way to help an organization that has made it their mission to help those in need. We will need volunteers to sign up to cover those hours. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex starting next Sunday.

## **happy anniversary!! calvary breakfast group celebrates year one**

On October 26, 2010, Calvary's Tuesday Breakfast Group celebrated its first anniversary. The breakfast group meets every Tuesday morning from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM at the Flim-Flam Restaurant on Plymouth Road in Ann Arbor. It is open to all Calvary members and friends. Even if you cannot come every Tuesday, just come when you can. This has been a valuable time for getting to know one another better. We are a good sounding board for whatever is on your mind. As one attendee states, "Its been a great way to support and lift each other up and pray for each other, needs of the church and the local/global community." Though our original purpose is to discuss and capture more meaning to the Sunday's sermon, we enjoy sharing views on many topics including sports! Last year we made (no pressure) small dollar support for the youth Detroit Mission trip and are currently contributing to "Nothing but Nets" to fight Malaria in Africa (\$10.00 buys a net and can save a whole family from malaria).

Please join us when you can.

## **calvary care church committee final preparations**

The Calvary Church Care Committee (CCCC) is about to kick off and your help is needed.

This committee of volunteers will reach out to members in our congregation who may need a service such as: Home Visits, Transportation, Meals, Funeral Details, Flowers, Cards, Errands, Home Project, ETC. Communication will take place between committee and pastor/secretary.

The committee could lend a personal hand to those

in need or just extend the courtesy of asking if they need assistance, while remembering to be sensitive and not overbearing. Many already do much of this without others knowing. Maybe the helpers could use some help!

The committee will facilitate communications via e-mail, phone, website and secretary/pastor.

It is not too late to submit your ideas or offer your help as a volunteer, by contacting Gerald Woolfolk, phone 734-665-6682 or e-mail gmwoolfolk@aol.com.

## **crop walk report**

Thanks to walkers Tom and Sandra Jameson, Regina Noland, Kristen Olsen, Doug Smith, and Karen Woollams and to the entire Calvary congregation for their pledges, we donated over \$820 to local and global hunger relief and prevention. We topped last year's effort of \$767!



## **memory walk report**

Many people were gathered in Gallup Park on a gorgeous Sunday October 10, 2010, for the 10th Annual Memory Walk. The Great Lakes Chapter of the Alzheimer Association sponsored the event. Donations were made to help those affected by Alzheimer's Disease. Canoes floating serenely on the river added to the beauty of the day.

## **i'll drink to that**

We are in need of 2 new coffee makers (regular and decaffeinated). One current pot has broken legs and the other pot needs replacing. Thelma Monroe has checked several places and two new coffee makers will be about \$300 with shipping. These are industrial coffee makers and should last for a long period of time. One pot has 30 cup capacity and the other 55 cup capacity. We are seeking contributions toward this purchase. Please mark your contribution "coffee brewer" and put in the offering. If questions, contact Thelma Monroe.

## **keep on keepin' on**

Please continue to leave metal tabs, eyeglasses and even hearing aids on the counter in the narthex. On behalf of the recipients, please accept a grateful "Thanks." Submitted by Ruth Husung

**what's new around here?**

Most of you have probably noticed the screen that we are using for worship. I know many people have found it easier not to have to hold the books. I have also heard people mention that the singing seems louder and more enthusiastic. I hope you all find it helpful. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible.

**we're getting younger all the time**

Sunday School is going well and our Nursery is being used. It's great to have children in church and I have heard that the kids love coming to church because of all that they do here. If you would like to help with Sunday school or in the nursery, please contact Pastor Beth or Judy Weir.



**saluting one of calvary's saints**

In the month of November we have often remembered the saints of our congregation and church family who have been special to us. In that context, I would like to take time out to remember Hap Sibert. Hap was one of Calvary's departed saints who many of us had the privilege to know and hold in high regard. Hap was "Happy". He chugged into Calvary every Sunday with his Bible in hand, a smile on his face, and lots of positive energy. Anyone that asked him how he was knew that they would get the joyous response "I'm just great." He looked forward to coming to church! The bench on the east side of the sanctuary where he sat permanently memorializes his presence at Calvary with a name placard. What the name placard does not capture, however, is his generous spirit and love for the Lord that he freely communicated. I am motivated to write this reflection to remind everyone that the new projector system that we have recently installed and are enjoying as

an enhancement to our worship experience was purchased from the Hap Sibert Fund. Thank You, Saint Hap, for your tangible and intangible contributions to Calvary in honor of your Lord that are still bearing fruit!

Submitted by Marilyn Woolfolk



**the gathering at calvary**

About a year ago, we held an afternoon retreat for the church to talk about where we are going and how we could reach out to invite others and grow our church. At one of the break-out sessions, there was discussion about the need to do something new. If you keep doing the same thing you will keep getting the same results, if you want different results you need to make some changes. One of our members volunteered a financial gift to support doing something new.

This offer motivated me to research what that "something new" might be. After many prayers and many conversations with other pastors and people who have started new things in the church, I decided that a new service for a different population might be the most effective way to reach out to the community. It will be a church model that is much different than our Sunday morning service. Our morning service is a very traditional and for the most part serves a middle-age to retired population and some of their children. This new congregation will be modeled after Solomon's Porch in Minneapolis.

This model focuses on the formation of community, growing together and supporting each other as we worship and grow in Christ. Originally the targeted population was young adults, although in conversation I have heard a lot of 40 something's express an interest in such a service.

The United Methodist Church created four area of focus that would help direct us as the church. One of the areas of focus is "creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones." It says "if we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship." This new church model seeks to reach out to people that are already in our community, but are uncomfortable or uninspired by the traditional church service. I also believe, that while the purpose is to create a new congregation, it also has the potential to renew the whole church. The energy of doing something new will affect all of us and hopefully inspire us, and maybe attract the



attention of people who might be interested in our traditional worship.

This new service really is something new in town. It is different than the popular contemporary services, and it is definitely not traditional worship. The music will be a blend of traditional hymns and contemporary songs. The music will hopefully be provided with a keyboard, a guitar and drums. The worship style will be relaxed. Eventually the plan would be to have comfortable furniture, creating a living room like setting. The worship gathering will consist of music, prayers, scripture and message. The message will be planned for interaction to take place, with the understanding that we can all learn from each other and that the pastor is not the only voice that can be brought to a worship gathering.

I see the new gathering as being inviting and welcoming. It will be a place where hospitality is practiced and care and support are offered to each other. This new congregation will challenge and support the people who attend to live as followers of Christ, inviting others along on the journey as together we live and grow in Christ. There will also be a focus on serving those in need in the community that we live in. THE GATHERING, is scheduled to start on Sunday, January 9, 2011, at 6:30 pm. Please keep this new service in your prayers. If you have ideas, questions or concerns, please talk to Pastor Beth.

## christmas gifts that won't break

The Advent season always holds a lot of promise for us as Christians. It is a season filled with joy and expectation, especially when we spend this time with others and focus on what is important about the holiday. At Calvary, there are several opportunities for you to discover the joy. The theme for the Advent season is "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break." We hope that this season of Advent will fill you with joy and that as we move into the New Year, you won't put that joy away with the decorations.

The Calvary Singers will be working on some special music pieces and would love to have you sing with them. Practices are at 9 am on Sunday mornings.

Bible study will continue on Tuesday evenings at 7, to discuss the upcoming scripture lesson. There will also be Advent Reflections on Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm. We will sing Christmas carols, reflect on the topic of the morning and have seasonal refreshments.



## birthdays

### november

- 1 Chuck Willey
- 4 Ed Wier
- 6 Bonnie Andrews
- 9 Ruth Husung
- 11 Lanika Smith  
Zach Hamilton
- 12 Sandy Olsen
- 13 Nickolas Griffin
- 18 Marilyn Woolfolk
- 24 Julie Simpson
- 25 Kristen Olsen  
Benjamin Gately
- 26 Melvin Kimbrough
- 29 Robyn Hughes



### december

- 5 Agnes Warren #104
- 8 Betsy Hamilton  
Sarah Jameson
- 18 Regina Barnes  
Bobbie Reed  
David Thompson
- 22 Judy Wier  
Susan Glysson
- 31 Ghia 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.

**VETERANS DAY – November 11**

**HANGING OF THE GREENS – Sunday, November 21** following worship. Lunch will be provided by the youth.

**NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK – November 21-28**

**BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 pm** in the Chapel

**THANKSGIVING DAY – November 25**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT The Gift of Hope – Sunday, November 28**

Worship - 10:00 am

Advent Reflections - 6:30 pm

**BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, November 30, 7:00 pm** in the Chapel

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Saturday, December 4 at 5:00 pm**

See Sign-up in the Narthex.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT The Gift of Peace – Sunday, December 5**

Worship - 10:00 am

Advent Reflections - 6:30 pm

**BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 pm** in the Chapel

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT The Gift of Joy – Sunday, December 12**

Worship - 10:00 am

Advent Reflections - 6:30 pm

**BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 pm** in the Chapel

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT The Gift of Love – Sunday, December 19**

Worship - 10:00 am

Advent Reflections - 6:30 pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Friday, December 24 - 5:30 pm**

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Sunday, December 26 - 10:00 am**



*Christ  
IS Coming!*

**anniversaries****november**

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

**december**

- 27 Mandi and Rolf Lowe
- 28 Bev and Chuck Sanders
- Joanne and Gerald Navarre

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1415 Miller  
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Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

**The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter**

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

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Sunday Worship 10:00  
Sunday School 11:15