



# THIS MONTH

## November/December 2011

**The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter**

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



### pastor's ponderings



It's been an exciting fall here at Calvary. Lots of good things have happened and continue to happen. It's good to

recall all the blessings as we move into the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The sanctuary looks great! The phase 1 part of the re-model has made a big difference in the way the musicians, singers, children, and anyone taking part in worship can move around during the service. It allows me to preach from the front and still move around. It provides a lot of flexibility for worship and for community activities. It is handicap accessible so that anyone can take part in worship and not be hindered by steps. The altar has been redesigned to be a table and it looks great! The whole project is a good change to our sanctuary.

We continue to be active in mission activities. Most recently a group has started going down to Detroit once a month to volunteer at Cass Community Social Services. At the moment the job is to make as many sandwiches as possible, but only God knows how we might get even more involved in the future. We continue to serve at St. Andrew's breakfast every other month, serving a hot meal to people who are in need right here in Ann Arbor.

The trip to Haiti is getting closer and there are many ways you can be part of this trip.

We are collecting some small toys and shorts for the children of the school, (see the article in this newsletter), we are asking you to purchase trees to be planted in Haiti, and you can make a donation toward the project, to help finish the school and church building that we will be working on. Talk to me for more information. It is my prayer that this is only the first trip of many that I will lead to Haiti.

Our children's Sunday school is going well. They are now meeting in the Kid's Place room and enjoying the bigger space. There are some new people involved in the children's program, for whom we are very thankful. We are hoping to add a music component to our children's program that will include singing and instruments.



In this season of giving thanks, we can be very thankful for the people that are making all of this possible, the people who have been planning and working on it all. They know who they are and to all of you thank you for giving yourself, your time, talents and resources to our church.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, I hope you'll take time to think about the blessings in your life and offer your thanks to the people who have supported you and blessed you and most of all to the Provider of all good things.

I have a Psalm book called *Psalms Now* from

Psalm 100, it says:

Break forth  
into exclamations of joy and gladness,  
you who serve the Lord! ...

Let the world seek out manifestations of joy!  
Let us lift up our voices in songs of praise  
and surrender our lives  
as continual offerings of thanksgivings!  
Let us bless His name forever!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Grace and Peace,

*Beth*

## help wanted:

**Nursery Coordinator:** We need someone to coordinate volunteers and take care of the nursery. It will include making sure the bedding for the crib is clean, making sure the supplies are there, and keeping track of the general condition of the toys. Just making sure the nursery is ready to welcome babies and young families.



**Communion Steward:** Someone to buy the supplies and have them ready for communion Sundays, and to wash and iron the white napkins.

## hanging of the greens

We will be hanging the greens following worship on Sunday, Nov. 20th. The youth will make lunch so we can enjoy a time of fellowship after we are done decorating for this special time of year.

## bible study

Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays at 7:00. It is an open group and we are having a good time. Come and check it out.

## the gathering

The Gathering is meeting on Thursdays at 6:30. It is a really nice time of worship, scripture and prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us and invite a friend.

## volunteer for st. andrews

We are signed up to serve breakfast at St. Andrews again on Saturday Dec. 3. There will be a sign up in the narthex.

## movie night

Movie night is coming up -- tentatively scheduled on Friday, December 9. Watch for details!

## children's choir

A children's choir is being formed and the first thing they will work on is a song to perform at Christmas Eve. They will meet most Sundays after the worship service in the chapel. All children and youth, 4 years and older, are invited to join the choir!



## advent and christmas:

**THE JOURNEY: Walking the Road to Bethlehem**

A simple girl. An ordinary man. Traveling a road filled with uncertainty and expectation. To a humble shelter far from home.

**THIS CHRISTMAS ..... EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY!**

**Worship:** Join us as we travel the journey together to Christmas. Come and sing your favorite Christmas hymns and carols, hear the story, and celebrate the coming of Jesus.

**For Bible Study:** We will be using the book and video study written by Adam Hamilton. If you would like to purchase a book, please sign up in the narthex. (The book is not necessary to come to Bible study.)



**CHRISTMAS**

**haiti**

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. It has been hit by disaster after disaster and a history of poor government. This leaves the people without much hope and a strong feeling of helplessness. Since THE earthquake many organizations have been going there to help rebuild and hopefully change the future for the people of Haiti.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) has been doing work there for a long time before the earthquake and in fact some people working for UMCOR were in Port Au Prince in their office there and died in the earthquake. The Detroit Conference of the UMC has had a covenant relationship with people of Haiti for many years. We have been providing hot lunches through the schools, helping to send children to school, and building schools and churches. For many of the children the only hot meal they get is at school, and not all children can go to school. It costs \$300/year to be able to educate children and families just can't pay that amount. The average annual income for a family is less than \$450/year.

Near the town of Jeremie is the Gommier school. Several churches from the Detroit Conference have been involved in building this school, building

bathrooms for them, and providing for their lunches. It is my hope that we are joining these churches to work together to improve the lives of these children and

their families. Since the earthquake, many people have left the city of Port Au Prince and are moving to places outside the city. These towns and villages have not been prepared to care for so many refugees. Our work helps.

In February, Dale and I and Steve Reed are going to go as part of a team that includes three other churches to work on the Gommier school. There are currently 10 people on the team, from Redford UMC, New Beginnings UMC (Redford), Metropolitan UMC, and Calvary. We are planning to work on the building, plant trees, and provide the children with a VBS type program. Each church is hoping to be able to offer \$2,500 to the project costs and each individual is paying approximately \$1,700 for their flight, room and board, and other travel costs.



You can be part of this opportunity in several ways...

- \* Pray for our trip, pray for our safety, pray that we can do the work needed to make the buildings more useful, so that more children can have the opportunity to go to school, and that we can share the love of Christ with many people who need the hope he provides.
- \* Help purchase the trees. Deforestation is a huge issue in Haiti. It is one reason that the rainy season results in several landslides and why there is no place for the rain to go. See your bulletin insert for more information.
- \* There are small toys and some clothing that we want to take to the children. Please see the list in your bulletin and help provide these small things.
- \* You can make a donation toward the trip to help pay for project costs. Any extra money will be given to help provide education for another child in Gommier.

We appreciate your support and hope that this is only the first trip from Calvary. I have heard from several of you that you would like to go. It is my hope that this becomes an ongoing mission for Calvary.

**calvary walking for crop**

A great big thanks to all the walkers from Calvary in this year's CROP Walk: Joyce Clark, Alex Weldon, Judy Wier, Jake, Joey, Jayden,

Jackson, and Jayci Ellis, Beth and Dale Titus, Karen Woollams, and Sandra and Tom Jameson. \$891 was raised to fight hunger locally and worldwide. CROP Walk organizers at the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice are concerned that funds raised are down this year because of the economy. Our great effort is especially appreciated. Thanks everybody!



**new address**

Ruth Husung would like everyone to know her new address:

Ruth Husung  
1200 Earhart Rd. Apt. 333  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

## trustee board recap

Besides regular maintenance, the Trustee Board has coordinated several projects in the last couple of months to enhance our worship space, Sunday School area (Kid's Place), Nursery, and church exterior. The first phase of remodeling the interior worship area is now completed and it represents a wonderful enhancement of the front of the sanctuary that we will enjoy for years to come! The sanctuary is our most visible space and now is much more versatile for our Sunday morning service and inspirational worshipping. Kid's Place has had a major makeover! Thanks to removal of overused or never used furniture items, fresh paint, and installation of new lighting fixtures this room is now an exciting area to hold Sunday School where our children and young people can learn about Jesus and grow in Christian faith. On those hot, muggy Sundays this summer our Nursery was the coolest place to be thanks to the air conditioner that was purchased and installed. Finally, you may not have noticed, but we took action in August to have the roof repaired so that we can stop current and future leaks from doing internal damage. Two of these projects were bid out to contractors, per our prescribed operating procedures, but most of the other projects were accomplished by the energy, "heavy lifting", and encouragement of volunteers from our congregation. What a blessing!

Our next endeavor is to plan for the Christmas season and we decided as a Board to continue to have lights for the big tree on Newport, provided it is fully funded by collecting donations as it has been the last two years. Watch for future information in the church bulletin to make contributions to this Tree Lighting Fund or just put in the offering plate with a designation for "Tree Lights".

The Trustee Board is now chaired by Val Losse. We welcome your feedback as we work together to be good stewards of our church buildings and grounds. Your Trustees

## give gifts of meaning this holiday season!

Join ICPJ and First Baptist Church for the 28th ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY FAIR:

Sunday, December 4th

12:30 pm-3:00 pm

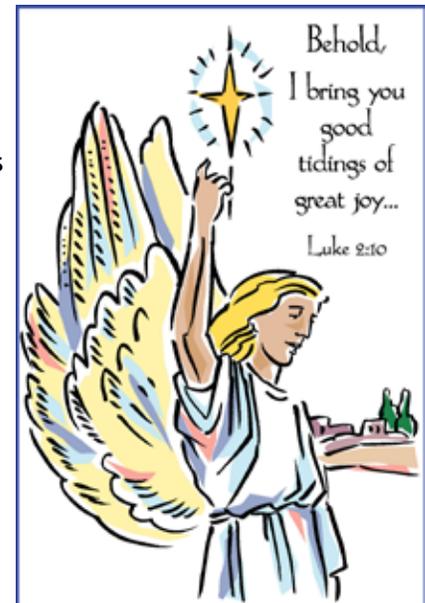
First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron, Ann Arbor

Do you wish your holidays could be more simple? Do you wish you could make a difference with your gift-giving this year? Celebrate the holidays by purchasing your gifts at the 28th annual alternative holiday fair.

The fair features fairly traded handmade goods made by artisans from around the world, including unique toys, jewelry, ornaments, leather crafts, pottery, and more! By purchasing these unique gifts, you support the artisans and their communities creating a more just and peaceful world.

There will music and refreshments so bring the whole family and enjoy a fun afternoon.

Sponsored by First Baptist Church in Ann Arbor. Co-sponsored by ICPJ. Participants include: SERRV, Ten Thousand Villages, Church World Service, Heifer Project International, and others.



## 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

## 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.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Saturday, November 12 at 5:30 pm

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Sunday, November 20 following worship. Lunch will be provided by the youth.

ST ANDREWS BREAKFAST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – Saturday, December 3, 7-9:30 am  
Mission opportunity to provide set-up and breakfast for the homeless. Sign up in the Narthex.

BAKE SALE – Sunday, December 4 after church

MOVIE NIGHT – Friday, December 9 at 7:00 pm  
Watch for details!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Sunday, December 18

NURTURE/OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Tuesday January 17 at 5:30 pm

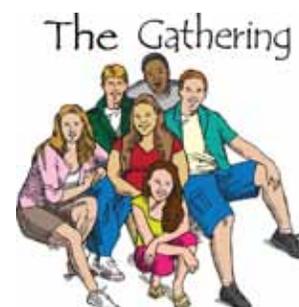


### Weekly Activities:

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST at Big Boy's on Plymouth Rd, 7 am  
Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship at our NEW location.

BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

THE GATHERING AT CALVARY – Thursdays, 6:30 pm



## 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



Wish These Friends a  
"Happy Birthday!"

### december

- 5 Agnes Warren #105
- 8 Betsy Hamilton  
Sarah Jameson
- 18 Regina Barnes  
Bobbie Reed  
David Thompson
- 22 Judy Wier
- Susan Glysson
- 31 Ghia Parow

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Ann Arbor, MI 48103



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

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

Sunday Worship 10:00  
Sunday School 11:15