



THIS MONTH

November/December 2012

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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



pastor's ponderings



So here it is, whether you want it or not, this is the newsletter with the Advent and Christmas information in it. I know it seems impossible but here we are. I hear you all moaning now. What is it about this season that causes us to approach with great anxiety? Why do we come to this time in November and instead of getting excited about the quickly approaching holiday season, we become filled with dread. Probably because we have already started making lists of things to do, and the calendar is already filling up with Christmas events and parties, some obligatory and some with good friends. We are already overwhelmed by the responsibility of making everyone else's Christmas magical.

But what about our Christmas? When do we get to experience the magic? Oh, it's nice to watch the kids and grandkids open up gifts that you bought and see them smile, and it's really nice to have the whole family sitting around the table together and enjoying each other's company, (unless you have one of those families that fight every time they get together). It's just that it is so much work to make it happen and because of all the work, it doesn't seem so magical.

Do you really need to make 50 dozen cookies? It's fine if you enjoy doing it, but if not, there are lots of ways to fill desert trays. How about all those decorations? I

like putting them up, but then they have to come down. Is it really any less special with only the favorite decorations? There are lots of short-cuts for much of the work we put into the season. It would be nice if we didn't have to spend half the season exhausted.

We have filled the season with so much expectation that it is sometimes disappointing. We have lost that joy that comes through simple things. I suggest you read a book this Christmas season, inspirational fiction and non-fiction abounds at this time of the year, read a good tear jerker and feel the joy. Shop with a friend, or one of your children, don't worry about the shopping, it will happen, but make sure you take time for a pumpkin latte and enjoy the time together. Sing Christmas carols often, out loud. They are meant to make you feel happy, let them.

Most importantly, I believe we've lost the joy of our life in Christ that makes this season so extremely special. God wrapped himself up in human flesh and came to us in the form a small baby, to share with us the love that God has for us. It's really incredible when you think about it. If you do nothing else this season come to church, you owe it to yourself to discover the joy that your faith has to offer. We sing the carols, we tell the stories and we experience the birth of our Savior. This is after all the reason there even is Christmas.

May your Advent season be filled with holy anticipation and joy!

Grace and Peace,

Beth

worship in december

The Advent sermon series is based on a book *Kneeling at Bethlehem*, by Ann Weems. It is a book of poetry, so each Sunday will have a message that is inspired by one of these poems. Pastor Beth and Regina Noland are planning to preach together and are hoping to give us twice as much inspiration and joy.

lighting the tree

Our tree is seen from afar, just ask anyone who drives Newport Rd! It has become a sign for many neighbors and gets the attention of anyone who drives by, rides the bus, or is out for a run. It costs \$640 to light the tree and is done by private donations, not from the church general giving. If you would like to help Light the Tree, you can make a donation to the church and memo it, *Tree*. Thank you.



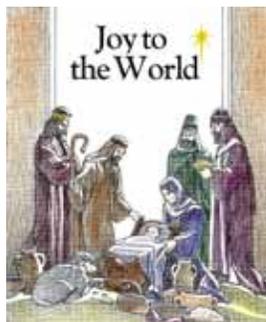
an opportunity!

Come, sing, with the Calvary Singers for the next few weeks. Several Christmas/Advent songs are going to be rehearsed and then shared with the congregation. We practice at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We would love to have you join us! See Gerald or Sandra with questions.

celebrate christmas!

Start the Holiday Season Singing! Join with our neighbors and friends to Celebrate Christmas on **Sunday, December 2 at 6:30 pm** for an hour-long program of music of the season (concert and carol singing), holiday refreshments, a craft table for kids, and enchanting Christmas village and nativity scenes decorating the church!

And **we need your help to decorate** the church — please bring in your Christmas village and nativity decorations for Calvary members and visitors to enjoy during Advent to be set up in Sunday School rooms and the Fellowship Hall during the Hanging of the Greens on November 25 (or at a better



time of your convenience).

If you would like to help provide decorations, refreshments, craft projects, or help plan the event, please contact Karen Woollams or Pastor Beth.

christmas eve service @ 5:30 pm

We plan our Christmas Eve service early so that you can bring the whole family and go home for dinner and still be in bed before Santa arrives. The service is designed with all ages in mind.

bible study

There is Bible Study every other Wednesday night, led by Dr. George Thompson. (Nov 7 and 21 and Dec 5 and 19)

fellowship breakfast

Come start your day off right with good food and good friends at an Ann Arbor classic, Bell's Diner, on Stadium at 7:30 am.

cass work day

Join us for a Cass Community Services Work Day on Saturday November 17th.

If you would like to help with the ministry at Cass in Detroit, here is a great opportunity. We will be working with the people from Brighton First UMC on apartments for people in need of housing. Please see Dale Titus for more details or all the church office (734)769-0869.



haiti

Beth, Dale and Kristin are headed for Haiti in February. They will be working on the Gommier school resource center, and doing some construction work on a home for senior citizens in Jeremie. The home is in poor condition. Each person has one room, and access to the courtyard that is unusable with walkers and wheelchairs. There are toilets in terrible condition, a kitchen that is deplorable and a dining room. If you would like to make a donation to the projects that are being worked on, you

can write a check to the church and mark it clearly Haiti. Thank you!!

FYI - There have been several requests for a Calvary Team to go to Haiti. It is in the works for 2014! Let Pastor Beth know if you are interested.

our greatest need?

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior. -Source Unknown

the history of christmas

How did December 25 gain its Christian emphasis? Evidently, sometime during the early fourth century, Christians began searching for the proper day to celebrate Christ's birth. Some churches had been celebrating Jesus' birth on January 6, others April 20, May 20, March 29, and September 29. Finally so much confusion reigned that Saint Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem, about the middle of the fourth century, inquired of the Roman bishop, Julius, regarding the correct date. Julius wrote Cyril and reported that he personally favored December 25. Obviously refusing to accept this date as valid, Cyril and the Jerusalem church continued celebrating the event for many years on January 6. In A.D. 354, two years following the end of Saint Julius' reign, the new Roman bishop, Liberius, ordered all his people to celebrate December 25 as the correct day of Christ's birth. With the passage of time this date became the more popular and was soon adopted by most of Western Christendom.



CHRISTMAS

holiday eating tips

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.
2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly.

Like fine single-malt scotch, it's rare. In fact, it's even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-a-holic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!

3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano.

4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

8. Same for pies. Apple. Pumpkin. Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or, if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Duh?

9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory, celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

10. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Reread tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by:

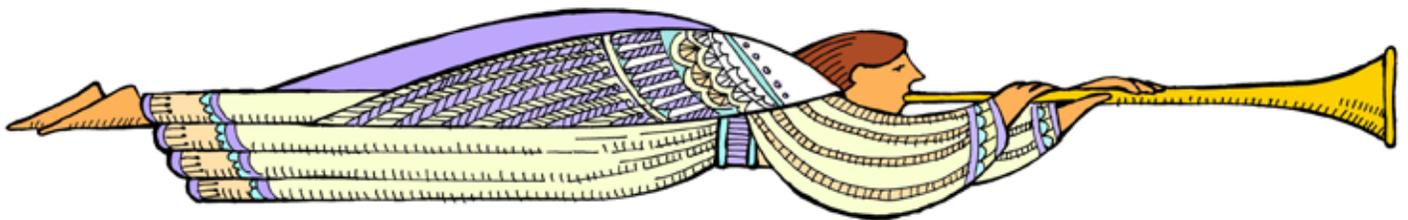
"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, eggnog in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

birthdays**november**

- 1 Chuck Willey
- 4 Ed Wier
- 9 Ruth Husung
- 11 Lanika Smith
- 12 Sandy Olsen
- 13 Nickolas Griffin
- 18 Marilyn Woolfolk
- 25 Kristen Olsen
- 26 Melvin Kimbrough
- 29 Robyn Hughes

**december**

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

**anniversaries****november**

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

**december**

- 10 Linda and Jim Whitman
- 27 Mandi and Rolf Lowe
- 28 Bev and Chuck Sanders



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.

YOUTH OUTING – Sunday, November 11, 7:00 pm

YG will travel to Howell to Great Escape for a fun afternoon of Go Carting and other activities after church.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MTG –

Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 pm

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

CASS WORK DAY – Saturday, November 17

Please see Dale Titus for more details or call the church office (734)769-0869 to help rehab Cass operated apartments for people in need of housing.

THANKSGIVING DAY – November 22

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Sunday, November 25 following worship. Lunch will be provided by the youth.



Hanging of the Greens



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS! – Sunday, December 2, 6:30 pm

Come together for a neighborhood party with music of the season, Christmas displays and holiday refreshments.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE – Sunday, December 9

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Sunday, December 16

YOUTH GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY – Sunday, December 23



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE –
Monday, December 24,
5:30 pm



Weekly Activities:

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST at Bell's Diner, 2167 W. Stadium, 7:00 am
Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship.

BIBLE STUDY – every other Thursday, 7:00 pm

There is Bible Study every other Wednesday night, led by Dr. George Thompson. (November 7 and 21 and December 5 and 19)

THE GATHERING AT CALVARY – Thursdays, 6:30 pm

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15