



THIS MONTH

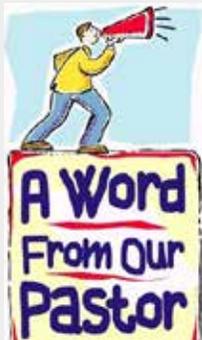
Nov/Dec 2015

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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minister's message



Being the pastor of Calvary is very much like being in a movie. There aren't any explosives, or aliens, or even compelling conflicts. (Hopefully, it stays that way). However, we do have a whole lot of characters. As the movie of Calvary unfolds, I have the pleasure of learning more about the

people of this church. It's like picking up small, unexpected nuggets off the ground that provide a fuller picture of the individuals that make up our faith community. Sometimes it's as simple as discovering a couple retired early or a person spent his middle school years in Brazil.

Today, I'm still waiting to see how the main character's story unfolds. How will God's story unfold here in our church? When we pick up the bible, we can see how God's story unfolded for the ancient Israelites in Egypt. Or, in the book of Acts, we witness God moving in the hearts of the Christ's first followers. In recent weeks, a group of us have discussed Faith Fowler's *This Far by Faith* book, and all the ways God has been at work in Detroit through Cass Community Services. It might be tempting to believe God works powerfully in other places or

through other people but not with us. Well, God can work powerfully through us. We just haven't seen it in all its fullness yet!

I am convinced God has already been working amongst us, because we are a community of people who genuinely love and care for each other, and we truly possess a disproportionate amount of generosity for a congregation of our size. The question isn't whether or not God works in us. It's obvious God is here. Still, we are right to wonder where God is leading us and how God's story will unfold in our lives and in our community.

As such, I invite you to prayerfully join me in exploring the following questions:

1. What is God calling us to start doing?
2. What is God calling us to do better or differently?
3. What is God calling us to stop doing?

Grace and Peace,

Andy

dine about town

It's time again for our progressive dinner-- starting at 5:30 pm on **Friay, November 6.**

Enjoy fabulous appetizers at Carol and Steve Miller's house at 2412 Georgetown Boulevard, dinner at Gerald and Marily Woolfolk's house at 2780 Holyoke Ln, and dessert at Tom and Sandra Jameson's house at 2876 North Maple Road. Sign up in the narthex to participate or just come!



scouting cubs

Calvary sponsors both a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack. For quite some time, the Boy Scouts have met at Calvary on Tuesday nights. This year our Cub Scout pack has decided to meet at Calvary, and they are excited to be here. Last week, as I sat in on their committee meeting, I had the opportunity to listen to their excitement. From last year, the leaders felt they improved the health of the pack dramatically, and as a result, they now have a renewed sense of purpose as well as a more clarified vision. The pack is interested in growing, serving, and giving their kids the best possible Cub Scout experience. As such, the Cub Scout pack is opened to partnering with the church to accomplish mutually beneficial goals.



That's a great attitude and I was encouraged, but we closed our meeting without any concrete

ideas. With that, I invite you to imagine how we can utilize this partnership. Perhaps, we'll have a small army of 4 foot servers at the next spaghetti dinner. Or, maybe we can plan outreach activities like an art class, an ice cream social, or a block party with the confidence that we won't have zero kids show up.

With this new group in the fold, I again ask you to consider the questions from page 1: What is God calling us to start doing? What is God calling us to do better? What is God calling us to stop doing?

lighting the tree

Our tree is seen from afar, just ask anyone who drives Newport Rd! It has become a symbol for many neighbors and gets the attention of anyone who drives by, rides the bus, or is out for a run.

It costs about \$640 to light the tree for Christmas and is done by private donations, not from the church general giving. We need your help to Light the Tree, so please make a donation to the church and memo it, *Tree*.



As we look forward to our own traditions of celebration, look for those lights and remember the joy of the season and the greatest gift -- the birth of Jesus Christ into the world. Thank you!

crop success

Under beautiful blue skies and colorful fall leaves, Calvary CROP walkers joined the crowd on Sunday, October 11 to raise funds to fight hunger. Thanks to those who walked and many thanks to all those who made donations!



remembering our saints

All Saints' Day is a solemnity celebrated on November 1 by various Protestant and Catholic denominations.

It has been traditionally a time to pay tribute to those individuals in the church



All Saints' Day

and in our lives that have made their transition to saint hood, yet still are etched in our hearts and minds because of the extraordinary people they were. Accordingly, we honor the following church saints who, since November of 2013, have passed through those heavenly gates and are now resting in peace with the Lord:

Elizabeth "Betty" Wier (at age 87) departed this life on December 5, 2013

Jerry Leonard (at age 63) departed this life on September 17, 2014

Ruth J. Husung (at age 93) departed this life on March 2, 2015

Agnes Warren (at age 108) departed this life on April 12, 2015

Each of these saints brought a special quality to our Calvary United Methodist Church family that enriched our worship, fellowship, and spirit in their own unique way. We cherish the memories they created for us and are proud to have known them as our brothers and sisters in Christian discipleship.

a couple of silly, short, funny tales for christmas

Part 1: It was coming up to Christmas and Sammy asked his mom if he could have a new bike. She told him that the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school nativity play, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So his mom told him that would be fine.

Sam went to his room and wrote, 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.'

But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. So he decided to try again and this time he wrote: 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.'

He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version: 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.'

He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach. After a short time he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter.

'Dear Jesus, If you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'



Part 2: The Crist family worked at a zoo.

Each year they predicted the general luck and overall mood of the year by watching the gnu. If the gnu's ears were forward, that meant a successful, joyous year was almost certain to happen. But if his ears were laid back flat against his head, it meant that an unlucky or very unhappy year was sure to come.

One year it was young Mary turn to "survey" the animal and come up with the prediction. It was her first time solo, and in her excitement, she forgot to take the key to the cage. She was late in coming to check on the gnu. Well, she saw the wrong ear position and predicted a bad year, when in fact it was quite good. To explain the error, the local newspaper ran the following headline a year later:

Mary Crist misses an happy gnu's year.

birthdays

november

- 4 Ed Wier
- 6 Bonnie Andrews
- 13 Nickolas Griffin
- 18 Marilyn Woolfolk
- 29 Robyn Hughes



december

- 8 Sarah Jameson
- 12 R. J. Schildhouse
- 18 David Thompson
- 22 Judy Wier
- 22 Susan Glysson
- 30 Penelope Schildhouse
- 31 Ghia Parow



anniversaries

november

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



december

- 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING – Monday, November 2, 5:30 pm

DONATION COLLECTION – November 8 (and every 2nd Sunday)
Dial Soap and Socks Ministry for the homeless, Canned and Dry Good for Faith in Action, Clothes and Housewares for House by the Side of the Road.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Friday, November 6, 5 pm
Appetizers at Millers, dinner at Woolfolk's and dessert at Jameson's.

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Sunday, November 22
Decorate the Church for Advent and enjoy a taco lunch together afterwards.

CHARGE CONFERENCE – Sunday, November 29, 5 pm

DONATION COLLECTION – December 13
(and every 2nd Sunday)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – Thursday, December 24, 5:30 pm
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with a candlelight service!

CHRISTMAS – Friday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

DONATION COLLECTION – January 10 (and every 2nd Sunday)

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MEETING –
Thursday, January 14, 5:30 pm



Hanging of the Greens

Candlelight Service



Weekly Activities:

HOLY YOGA – Tuesdays, 5:30 pm
Enjoy a weekly yoga class with scripture and praise music to heal the body and soul! Open to all--first class free, \$8/class, scholarships available.

MINDFUL YOGA – Thursdays, 4:30 pm
Special weekly yoga class scheduled to runs until-November 19! Open to all--first class free, \$10/class, scholarships available.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY – contact Pastor Andy for new schedule

Dial Soap Collection for the Delonis Shelter continuous donations accepted in basket in the narthex!

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Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

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1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15

Still want a printed newsletter?

Calvary has transitioned to a primarily digital newsletter. *If you would like to continue to receive a printed newsletter, let us know by calling or writing Calvary (see contact information above). Thanks!*

To make sure you get the digital newsletter, send your email address to Karen Woollams <woollams@umich.edu> or check out our website at <http://a2calvary.org/>