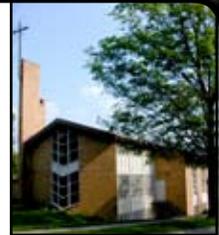




# THIS MONTH

September/October 2009



## The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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### pastor's ponderings



I was once told that it is a great privilege to be welcome at the bedside of the dying. It is a personal and sacred place and should be respected by those who are privi-

leged enough to be there. This week I had the opportunity to be in that place, and I truly felt that sacredness and I felt privileged to have the opportunity to be there.

I was visiting Frances Sweet on Monday, and I knew there wasn't much time left. She wasn't actually talking to me, she seemed to be sleeping pretty peacefully, but I talked and prayed with her. I was joined by a good friend and we sat by her bed and talked about the blessing Frances has been. He noticed that he thought she could hear us by the way she reacted and I agreed. It was a special moment and I am so happy I was able to be there.

She died that night, well actually, Tuesday morning at 3:45 am. I will miss her. I haven't known her long, only the year I've been here at Calvary but she was a joy to visit and very quickly I came to appreciate her wisdom and insights on life.

We shared books and funny stories that she knew. She was an avid reader and would read some of the best-selling novels and let me know if they were worth reading. Her favorites were books about animals and their relationships with people.

She told me about her struggles with cancer, as she encouraged me concerning a friend of mine. I would go to be her pastor but she was usually the one who ministered to me. She encouraged me as the pastor of Calvary and kept many of you in her prayers.

This past Christmas, I delivered a bear to her that we had in worship with us. She kept that bear in her apartment and talked to him, said good night to him every night, and told me she was reminded of her church when she talked to him. When I visited her at St. Joe's when she first went into the hospital, a couple of weeks ago, I asked if she wanted me to get him and bring him to the hospital, she told me "He's keeping an eye on our place." But when I went to Arbor Hospice on Monday, he was there on the foot of the bed, watching over her.

She was a special woman and a blessing to many people. Many of those people are now rejoicing as she joins them in heaven. So many of the people she loved had gone on before her and I know heaven is celebrating her arrival. In God's house there are many rooms and there is definitely one with Frances' name on it. Her faith was strong and she was ready for this occasion. In fact, I think she welcomed it; she wanted to move peacefully from this life to the beginning of the next life. And she has.

Occasionally someone requests that there be no public service when they have died. Frances was one of those people. So this is how I am sharing my thoughts on her. I have been inspired by her faith, and encouraged to live life boldly, as I believe she did for many years before I was privileged to meet her. I love you, Frances.

*Eternal God, you have shared with us the life of Frances Sweet.*

*before she was ours, she was yours.*

*For all that Frances has given us to make us what we are, for that of her which live and grows in each of us, and for her life that in your love will never end, we give you thanks. Amen*

*(from The Book of Worship, p. 157)*

*Beth*

**DON'T MISS IT!**  
**DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**  
**YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU**  
**MISS IT!**

## **the all-church retreat — sept 13, 2009**

We will start the day with **PASSIONATE WORSHIP** at 10:00 am. Rev Diana Goudie will be leading us in worship. Don't miss this, Rev, Goudie is a creative and inspiring preacher. A great way to start the day. (If you can't stay for the whole day, you will still want to come for worship.)

After worship we will share in a **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**. Around the tables, we will have discussions about the dreams we have for our church, what kind of things we'd like to see develop in our congregation.

After lunch we will work on plans for **RADICAL HOSPITALITY, INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT, and RISK-TAKING MISSION**. These plans can include things like a nursery committee to freshen up and organize the nursery, a process for inviting and welcoming guests, a list of fellowship activities where newcomers can come and connect with the people of the congregation, new ideas for Bible study, Adult classes, new ideas for mission and outreach activities, new ways to share the love of God locally and around the world. I know that you are full of ideas. Hopefully by the end of the afternoon, we will have goals and plans to reach those goals in each of these areas. But it really needs to include all of us to make this a reality in the life of our church.

We will end the day with a celebration. We will have Pizza and salad to celebrate the work we've done and the direction we are going.

Everyone is invited. No one is too young or too old, if you feel the need for child care please let Pastor Beth know, so we can make arrangements for you.



## **sunday school start-up**

Sunday School starts on September 20th. Make Intentional Faith Development part of your life and join a Sunday school class.

## **making passionate worship happen**

Passionate Worship involves all of us bringing our gifts and enthusiasm to worship. Your gifts are needed:

▶ **Join the Calvary Singers.** Come Sunday mornings at 9:15am to rehearse. See Sandra Jameson or Gerald Woolfolk for more details.

▶ **Serve as an usher.** Welcoming members and guests, and receiving our tithes and offerings are important parts of worship. See Al Storey with any questions and to get on the schedule.

▶ **Become a Praise Leader.** Lead the celebration time, share a scripture, share your joy for worship with others. See Ed Wier or Sandra Jameson for more information.

▶ **Provide and/or set-up for refreshments.** The fellowship time following worship is an important time for members to meet guests. Be part of this important ministry. See Thelma Monroe with any questions, or sign up in the narthex.



## **christmas already???**

An important time of the year, in the life of any church, will be here before you know it. Believe it or not, we are already planning for the Advent/Christmas season. If you are interested in being part of special musical group, to sing a special Christmas presentation (one might call it a cantata,) one Sunday in church, please let Sandra Jameson know.

## **annual church confer- ence -- thursday, october 29th.**

The Annual Church Conference is a time to celebrate the ministry of the church, a time to remember where we've been and think about where we are going, and a time to be part of the important business of the church. Our District Superintendent,



**Annual Conference**

Rev. Tom Macauley will be here and it is the Thursday before Halloween weekend, all the makings of a good conference. We will make plans for dessert. Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet at 6:45pm. The all church meeting will be at 7:30pm. Mark your calendars now!

**youth group scoop**

Let's get ready for another year of Calvary YG! This year our Youth will focus on fundraising for local missions, getting active in our community, and planning for a mission trip. All Youth (7th-12th grades) are invited to a information/planning meeting on Sept 20th in the Upper Room. Bring your parents and come prepared to discuss plans and goals for the year.



**walk for azheimer's**

The Memory Walk for Alzheimer's is October 4, if you would like more information or would like to support the research and the care of patients with a disease that has touched almost everyone's life see Ruth Husung for more information.

**let's stop hunger**

The Washtenaw CROP Walk, on October 18, raises both awareness of worldwide hunger and funds that support local food pantries and meal programs, with 25% of the monies staying locally and the balance going to regional and world wide hunger relief programs.

This year, Calvary members can help in many ways. As usual, we can walk and pledge funds for our walkers. Calvary will also be a rest stop for all CROP walkers. This opportunity to show-off our church can involve all of us--to prepare displays and signage, set-up the rest stop with tables and water, and to staff the rest stop. Talk to Karen Woollams if you want to participate in any part of the CROP walk. More information and pledge envelopes will be available on September 13.



**calvary and habitat**

Calvary and the whole Habitat for Humanity Good News House group have been working hard all summer. The Aveline house was dedicated on August 9 and the Hamden family will be moving in in September. The 1226 S. Congress renovation is a show-piece of the neighborhood and there will be an Open House for all interested on September 10 from 5:30-7 pm. Work continues through September and probably October to complete the major transformation. You can still help by volunteering. See <http://www.goodnewshouse.org/> or Karen Woollams.



**calvary outreach**

Calvary has been part of some outreach opportunities:

**Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Project**

From a motorcycle shoe box rally in Charlotte, North Carolina, to a packing party at a retirement home in Flagstaff, Arizona and right here in churches in Ann Arbor, hundreds of thousands of caring people across the nation joined forces for Operation Christmas Child in 2008. Some filled boxes, others volunteered at 2,400 drop-off sites, including several in Michigan in Plymouth, Brighton, Saline and more.

**Shoe Box Collection Totals by Country**

United States	- - - -4,881, 577
United Kingdom	--1,228,787
Canada	- - - - - 713,146
Germany, Aus, Switz	- - - - - 506,976
Australia, New Zealand	- - - - 303,933
Ireland	- - - - - 269,148
Netherlands	- - - - - 53,814
Finland	- - - - - 9,620
Total	- - - - - 7,967,001

Millions of Gospel Storybooks were printed in 52 languages and made available in 74 countries.

Lions Club International collects about 5,000,000 pairs of eyeglasses each year. Volunteers sort them, clean and test them, labels the prescriptions. Optical teams then take them overseas and provide eye exams and glasses fittings. There is a collection box in the narthex.

Aluminum tabs are collected and sell for about .50/pound. They are sanitized and used to make fun and attractive jewelry. UM Motts Children's

Hospital receives support from the donations. Proceeds are used to provide toys, books, etc. for the pediatric patients. There is a jar for your aluminum tab donations in the narthex.

Thanks for your efforts which provide help for those with special needs.

## just to think about:

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. (this is what happens when we stop fellowshiping with believers)

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the

middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. (and when we get back into fellowship with believers)

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.'

## haiti needs you

Teacher Salary Support needed at Haitian Methodist Schools

Teachers in Methodist run schools in Haiti are way behind on salary compensation for the year 2008.

- In some circuits, teachers have not been paid anything for the 2008 school year.

- Others have been given only half their compensation.

- They continue to work because of their dedication to the children and their faith in God.

If you wish to contribute to this support of teacher salary, send funds to:

UMCOR Advance 3019695 "Haiti-Teacher Salary Priority" in the memo area of your check

This information comes from the Michigan Area Task Force through Curtis Bartz.

Note: If you wish to support this program you can write a check to Calvary Church and we can send one check to the UMCOR Advance, through the Detroit Annual Conference.



## anniversaries

### september

- 3 Judy and Ed Wier
- 9 Sandy and Doug Olsen
- 18 Jennie and John Viery
- 19 Ruth and George Thompson



### october

- 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**

Wednesday, September 2, 2009 - Administrative Board Meeting

Sunday, September 13, 2009 - "Our Life Together" All-Church Retreat



Many of us have read and studied the book "5 Practices for Fruitful Congregations" and some of us attended "The 180 Turn-Around Church Conference." So what's next? Where are we going? These questions will be discussed and plans will be started to lead Calvary forward in ministry. Don't miss this! Plan on being in church and staying for the day!

Sunday, September 20, 2009 - Sunday School class begin.



Sunday, October 4, 2009 - Memory Walk for Alzheimer's

Sunday, October 18, 2009 - CROP Walk

Calvary is a rest-stop at the CROP Walk. We will have displays about hunger, offer water and apples(?) and rest-rooms. Can you help?

Thursday, October 29, 2009 - Annual Charge Conference

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet at 6:45 and the all church conference will start at 7:30.

**birthdays**

**september**

- 3 Kim Kracman
- 4 Sherri Givens
- 6 Bill Roche
- 9 Van Monroe
- Janelle Gates
- 10 Selena Monroe
- 11 Winslow Roche
- Jael Woolfolk
- 15 Vernita Gilkey
- 16 Karen Gates
- Denise Leffler
- 23 Tom Jameson
- 25 Jerry Leonard
- 28 Justin Gates



**october**

- 4 Rachel Miller
- 6 Ron Whiting
- 7 Thelma Monroe
- Chuck Sanders
- 8 Donna Hughes
- 10 Kyle Simpson
- 12 Grace Park
- 14 James Olsen
- 15 Geoffrey Smith-Wool-
- lams
- 18 Rose Smith-Woollams
- 21 Daniel Roberts

**September/October 2009**

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1415 Miller  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



**Bring  
*a*  
Friend**

Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

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Rev. Beth D. Titus, Pastor  
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Sunday Worship 10:00  
Sunday School 11:15