



THIS MONTH

September/October 2011

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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pastor's ponderings



September, the month that school starts again, regular programming returns, and we leave the lazy days of summer behind. Did anyone

find those lazy days of summer this year? I feel like summer flew by and I always felt busy. This year, at our house, September also brings an “empty nest.” It’s exciting and scary at the same time. I, of course, worry about my children and their safety and their success and happiness in college. I am also excited about what new things they will do. There are all kinds of new opportunities for them as they continue their education and work towards a career. I am really excited for them.

And then, there is another side of the story. Our home is quiet, almost too quiet at times. I don’t see Kristin at the dance studio any more. We are now connected by a cell phone and texting conversations. It’s different and my role as “mom” is different too. Matthew has always been very independent, but we saw a lot of him this past summer and his friends who hung out in our basement. But now they aren’t there, (and we do have food in the cupboards). So now what? My life is changing, it is new stage that Dale and I are experiencing. And we are determined to enjoy it, even if we miss the kids immensely.

This summer I saw a bumper sticker that

I really liked. It said, “Change is Inevitable. Growth is Optional,” No matter how much we want things to stay the same they don’t. The world around us changes, the shape of our families change, styles change, language changes. It is happening all the time and it will continue to happen. We should celebrate change, it means that there is life. If there is no change, we are stagnant, not growing, not living.

Some church professionals, suggest we never use the word “change” in relation to our churches. They say it frightens people, makes them nervous. We should find other language for it. But it is a sign of life, and even if we use words like “moving forward” or “transform,” they still mean new things are happening. And it is very exciting.

September is a time of newness. As the kids go back to school and we get ready for another nine month cycle of the “Work year,” people feel that there is a fresh start in September. Church is no exception. There is newness here and, I’m going to be honest, there is change. Good change, transforming change, moving forward change. And it is very exciting.

Sunday school starts and it looks like we might have new children in Sunday School, so we are moving the classroom to the “Kids Place” room. Judy is working hard to clean up and make it ready. The Youth Group also seems to be growing and they are meeting on September 18th to plan their year.

We've added to the church staff – Kelly McDermott and Rob Crozier have joined us to help start “The Gathering at Calvary” and add to our music on Sunday mornings. (You can read about Rob and Kelly and the Gathering in this newsletter).

The first phase of the sanctuary remodel is set to begin in September. So you may encounter some dust after they get started.

It's exciting!!! It's so hard to let the kids go, many of you can relate to this, but they are on their way, and I am really happy for them. It may be hard to see some of these changes happening at Calvary, especially for those of you who have been here your whole life. We are taking some steps to move our church forward. We want to reach more people and help them become disciples of Jesus Christ, we want to be relevant to a generation that needs God, we want to be active in missions, we want to be the church. We are on our way!

Beth

the gathering at calvary

It is exciting to be planning for this new service at Calvary. We are holding the first services on September 22nd and 29th, although it is officially being advertised to the public as beginning October 6th. We want to have the first two services be for family and friends, so we can run through it and see how it goes, so if you're not doing anything come check it out.



The Gathering will be designed as a service that is asking people to be involved in the worship experience. We are hoping it will become a Christ centered community that allows doubts and questions and encourages all to be seeking the answers. It is a modern service using a mix of traditional and modern music, community prayer, and the creative gifts of the people who attend. Some of the music will be original music written for this service.

We (Beth, Kelly and Rob) are very excited about the potential this service has to be a place for people who feel out of place in a church, and for those who love the church but want something different to add to their church experience. Come some Thursday night and see what's going on and let people know, there are flyers and brochures in the narthex to hand out.

meet rob and kelly

We want to welcome Rob and Kelly as part of our church staff. You've seen them in worship, using their musical talents to add more dimension to



our Sunday morning service. They will continue to be part of Sunday mornings and they will also be helping to start a new service on Thursday nights, “The Gathering at Calvary.”

They are members of a group called “Cairn to Cairn,” along with their friend, Terry Farmer. Rob plays bass and many percussion instruments. He is currently a student at U of M. Kelly is a flute teacher. She has also traveled all over the world playing in many ensembles and orchestras. They play a wide variety of styles and settings. They bring a lot of creativity and experience to our worship music.

youth group scoop

YG will kick off with a parent/youth meeting on Sunday September 18th from 11:30-12:15 in the upper Room. We will discuss our goals and plans for the year. Please be sure to come to give your suggestions. Let's plan for another great year of YG! Questions can be directed to Judy Wier.



september excitement

Be sure to come to worship on September 18th to hear a presentation about our summer mission trip to CASS Community Social Services in Detroit this past July. We will describe our experiences, hear music to inspire us and see photos of our work efforts. Elementary aged students are encouraged to stay in worship for this presentation, however Nursery Care will be available as needed.

If that isn't enough of a motivation to get to church, we will also have our annual Sundaes Sunday with lots of ice cream and fixings on the veranda, followed by Adult Sunday School lead by Gerald Woolfolk and our first Youth Group meeting of the year. Sunday School for elementary aged students will begin on September 25th during worship, immediately after "Time Out For Kids". Elementary students will be moving into a new classroom this year. Sunday school will be held in the Kids Place Room to accommodate larger numbers of students.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

haiti

There is a small group of us headed for Haiti on a mission trip in February. Steve Reed, Rob Crozier, and Dale and Beth Titus, will be leaving here February 9 to go and work on a school that needs to be completed, along with other small tasks like planting trees and providing a VBS experience for the children.

We are going as part of Volunteers In Mission Project through The United Methodist Church, in conjunction with two or three other churches. Each church needs to provide \$2500 by the end of the year to pay for the project costs, plus the cost of individuals to go. We will be doing some fundraising and I hope we can count on you to be supportive of this mission work.



Haitian and U.S. volunteers work together in Haiti

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Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Michigan United Methodists have been working in Haiti for many years, long before the earthquake, as a response to the words of Jesus,

“when you serve the least of these my brothers and sister, you serve me.” (my paraphrase)

Watch for more information as we begin to do fundraising. There are a couple more spots on the trip, if anyone is interested in joining us, please let Beth know ASAP.

crop walk

You can participate in the CROP Walk which takes place on Sunday, October 2. The annual Washtenaw County CROP Hunger Walk is an interfaith response to local and world hunger. Funds raised support local, national and international organizations and efforts to end hun-



CROPWALK

ger. Sign up to walk with Karen Woollams or support a Calvary walker with your donations (available online at <http://www.churchworldservice.org/goto/a2calvary>).

umcor's response in somalia and other parts of the horn of africa

UMCOR is working with partners ACT Alliance, Church World Service, Muslim Aid, and GlobalMedic in Somalia, Kenya,

and Ethiopia to provide food, clean water, and shelter for those that have been displaced and are living in refugee camps because of drought and hunger. Support UMCOR in its response to alleviate suffering for those affected by this crisis and give to "Horn of Africa"



International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450, or visit <http://www.umcor.org> for more information and to donate online.

birthdays**september**

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

**october**

- 4 Rachel Miller
Thelma Monroe
Chuck Sanders
- 8 Donna Hughes
- 12 Grace Park
- 14 James Olsen
- 15 Geoffrey Smith-Woollams
- 18 Rose Smith-Woollams
- 21 Daniel Roberts

**anniversaries****september**

- 3 Judy and Ed Wier
- 9 Sandy and Doug Olsen
- 19 Ruth and George Thompson

**october**

- 11 Denise and Bob Leffler
- 27 Kelly McDermott and Rob Crozier
- 29 Beth and Dale Titus
- 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Wednesday, September 14 at 4:30 pm

SUNDAE SUNDAY – September 18

Sunday School Kick-off Sunday - Sunday School begins for youth and adults. We will celebrate with Sundaes at fellowship time. There will be a *Special Worship Presentation* about the summer mission trip to CASS Community Social Services in Detroit this past July. The following Sunday, September 25th, Sunday School for Elementary ages will begin. The students will start in worship and following the TIME OUT FOR YOUTH they will be dismissed for Sunday School.

THE GATHERING AT CALVARY – Thursday, September 22 and 29

Trial run of new Calvary service for family and friends.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD – Wednesday, September 21 at 7 pm

CROP WALK – Sunday, October 2

Walk to support hunger programs worldwide

THE GATHERING AT CALVARY – Thursday, October 6

Official start of the new Calvary service.

NURTURE/OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Tuesday October 11 at 5:30 pm

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Sunday, October 23

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

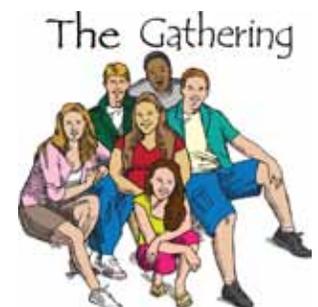


Weekly Activities:

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST at Flim-Flam Restaurant, 7 am

Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship at Flim-Flam Restaurant on Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor.

THE GATHERING AT CALVARY – Thursdays starting Sept 22



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THIS MONTH

Calvary United Methodist Church
1415 Miller
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**Bring
a
Friend**

Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

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

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15