



THIS MONTH

September/October 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



I hope that you have all had a good summer! Many of us have been traveling, visiting family, having some nice vacations, celebrating graduations and weddings – it certainly has been busy. I am always glad to see summer arrive with the nice weather and the opportunity to be outside and at the beginning of the summer I hope it lasts forever. But then it starts to feel like autumn is coming and I begin to think about how nice it will be to get my life into some sort of regular schedule, some sort of order to the daily schedule. And guess what – here it is.

Fall is coming. Back to school shopping is in full swing, our college kids have already headed back, teachers are getting their rooms ready and some of us are trying to fit in one more summer event. Besides back to school season, fall is also a time when people come back to church. A group of people here at Calvary have been meeting to plan some welcoming events for the fall and winter.

National Back to Church Sunday is September 16. We are planning to send out postcards to our neighbors and invite them to join us for this Back to Church Sunday. We are hoping to have a special fellowship time to welcome any

guests who might join us for that Sunday. Please read the article in this newsletter *Five Must-Know Facts about First Time Guests*, and give some prayerful thought to how we can welcome visitors had they come this fall, and they will!

There are also hopes for a Tailgate Party at a Michigan game, a Neighborhood Fall Festival, and a Neighborhood Christmas Party. We really want to get to know our neighbors and develop a good relationship with them. If you want to get involved in helping to plan these activities, please talk to me or Karen Woolams.

I hope that your fall is filled a good harvest, a harvest of love, faith and joy as we come back to church and put life back in order.

Grace and Peace,

Beth



worship

On September 2, we will finish our summer series on Jesus, with a sermon titled, "What Is God's Dream for the World?" What is the vision that Jesus gave us for the kingdom of God.

The next series, which starts on Sept. 16, is a series on prayer. It's based on a book called Circle Maker, by Mark Batterson.

Sunday, September 16 - Circle Making and the Legend of the Circle Maker.

Sunday, September 23 - First Circle: Dream Big

Sunday, September 30 - Second Circle: Pray Hard

Sunday, October 7 - Guest Preacher

Sunday, October 14 - Third Circle: Think Long

Sunday, October 21 - Keep Circling

And on Sunday, October 28, we will begin a new series, "Plastic Donuts"

Hope to see you here!

um football anyone?

If you are present at our Sunday services this fall, you may win a pair of football tickets to an upcoming UM game! We will have drawings for tickets donated by Calvary members several Sundays in September and October. Be in church on Sundays this fall or be square!



In another opportunity, do you want to help out with a Tailgating Event for a football Saturday? We'd like to share the news about Calvary as a great way to spend a Sunday with friends to football fans under a canopy with popcorn and a pre-game show on the tv. Contact Steve Miller if you want to help out.

book it!

Religious books being collected, to be donated to CRI (Christian Resources International) until Sept. 23. Please put your donated items in the box in the narthex.

have fun singing

Calvary Singers will soon be singing during church. Contact Gerald or Sandra if you are interested in joining Calvary's *Glee Club*!

crop walk

You can participate in the CROP Walk which takes place on Sunday, October 14. 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 hunger. Sign up to walk with Karen Woollams or support a Calvary walker with your donations.

**planning...**

We've been planning for events this fall and winter. Watch for details for a Fall Festival with local music and fun, like pumpkin decorating and treats, near the end of October. We're inviting the whole neighborhood, so invite your friends and neighbors too!

Next will be a neighborhood Christmas party featuring holiday music, Christmas carols, Christmas decorations and creche displays, and of course, great refreshments! We're looking for participants from the congregation and the wider neighborhood -so put your thinking cap on for how you can take part, get your ukulele out, and get involved in the fun!



As we prepare to welcome guests this fall, here is an article to think about.

Five Must-Know Facts about First-Time Guests

Highlights of an article by Rick Ezell

Healthy and growing churches pay attention to the people they count as members, as well as those people who are not yet a part of the flock. These churches know that new people are the lifeblood of a growing church. Like a spigot, they want to keep the valve open for the flow of new people, and most importantly, they want to ensure that nothing impairs or cuts off the flow of new people to the church.

With that in mind, churches need to be aware of 5 significant facts about first-time guests looking for a church home.

1. Visitors make up their minds regarding a new church in the first 10 minutes of their visit.

Often, before first-time guests have sung an inspiring song or hear a well-crafted sermon, they have made up their mind whether or not to return. This means that time preparing for the greeting and welcoming of first-time guests is more important than the planning of the actual worship service.

* Are ushers and greeters in place and alert to welcoming guests?

* Is the environment you take for granted user-friendly and accepting to guests?

2. Most church members aren't friendly.

Churches claim to be friendly. In fact, many churches put that expression in their logo or tag line. But my experience in visiting churches proves otherwise. The truth is most church members are friendly to the people they already know, but not to guests.

* The six most important minutes of a church service, in a visitor's eyes, are the 3 minutes before the service and the 3 minutes after the service.

* Churches are wise to discover their most gregarious and welcoming members and deploy them as unofficial greeters before and after each service, in addition to formal greeters and ushers.

3. Church guests are highly consumer-oriented.

"If Target doesn't have what I need, I just head to Kmart." Capitalism had taught us that if we don't find what we want, someone else down the street will have it. If your church building is too hard for newcomers to navigate, or find church members unfriendly, another church may be in their future.

* Pastors and church leaders need to look at their churches through the eyes of a first-time guest.

4. The church is in the hospitality business.

Though our ultimate purpose is spiritual, one of our first steps is attention to hospitality. Imagine the service that would be given to you in a first-class hotel or a five-star restaurant. Should the church offer anything less to those who have made the great effort to be our guests?

* Church members can extend hospitality to guests by offering to sit with them during the church service, giving them a tour of the church facilities, inviting them to lunch after the service, or connecting with them later in the week.

5. You have only one chance to make a good first impression.

First impressions are lasting ones. Little hope of correcting a bad impression is possible. Your first-time guests have simple desires and basic needs. They decide very quickly if you can meet those criteria. The decision to return for a second visit is often made before guests reach your front door.

* Are you creating an entire experience, beginning in your parking lot?

* Do newcomers have all the information they need without having to ask any embarrassing questions?

* Are greeters and ushers on the job, attending to details and anticipating needs?

* Does anything about your guests' experience make them say, "wow"?

Your church may have a skilled preacher, and may have excellent Bible Study and involvement in mission work. But first-time guests will never know unless they make a second or third visit. Will they come back? It all depends on the impression you're making. Make it right the first time.

Rick Ezell is pastor of First Baptist Church in Greer, South Carolina. The article first appeared at www.churchleaders.com.

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
- 7 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**

- 10 Betty and Ron Whiting
- 11 Denise and Bob Leffler
- 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF and SUNDAE SUNDAY – September 9

Start off the school year right with Sunday School and with Ice Cream Sundaes during fellowship time!

NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY – September 16

Come to Calvary for this special day and invite your friends and neighbors!

CROP WALK – Sunday, October 14

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE –
Sunday, October 21**

NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL
Watch for details on a Fall/Halloween event for the whole neighborhood!

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MTG –
Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 pm**
All are invited to attend and participate in the administration of our church.

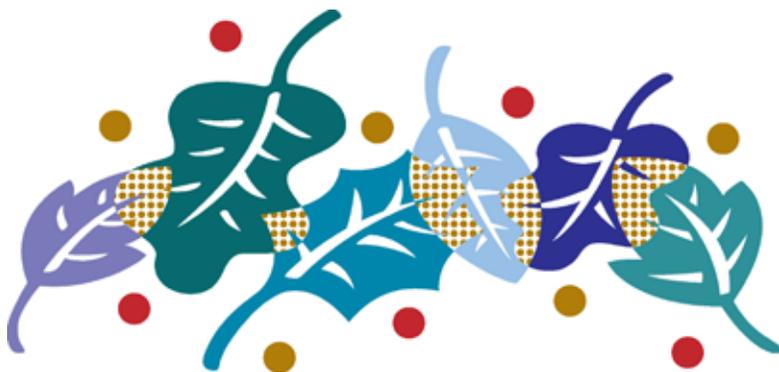
NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY
Watch for details on a Christmas party with music and decorations for the whole neighborhood to take place in early December!



Weekly Activities:

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST at the Village Kitchen, , 7 am
Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship.

THE GATHERING AT CALVARY – Thursdays, 6:30 pm



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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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1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15