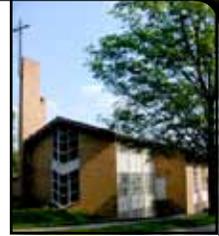




THIS MONTH

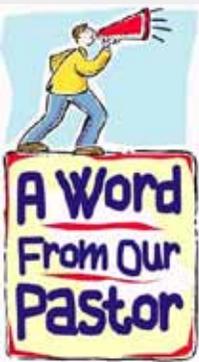
Sept/Oct 2014



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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

minister's message



Football and tailgating.
Popcorn and movies.
Deadlines and headaches.
There are some things
in life that just go well
together. I don't know
about you, but whenever
I get into my car to drive,
I need to turn that radio
on. On occasion, I'll lis-
ten to 97.1 "The Ticket"

as I try to learn a little bit more about base-
ball, but I'm reminded all too quickly how
insufferable baseball can be. As a result, I'll
catch a variety of music on the radio waves:
classical, pop, rap, punk rock and the list
goes on. Most times, it seems the majority
of the stations play the same 40 songs, and
the music blends into one unmemorable
experience.

However, every once in a while, a personal
favorite will pop up like a flower amidst a
bed of weeds. Perhaps, it's a song from my
favorite band when I was in middle school
or maybe it's the song that Grace and I have
proclaimed as "our song." Whatever the
case, as I drive I am compelled to sing every
word (whether or not I hit the notes is a
different story), use my non-driving hand to
form a fist as I sing so I can convey powerful
emotions, and shamelessly enjoy the experi-
ence.

Isaiah 52:7 says this, "How beautiful upon
the mountains are the feet of the messen-
ger who announces peace, who brings good
news, who announces salvation, who says to
Zion, 'Your God reigns.' New songs come out
every day. Announcements about the "next
big thing" are always just around the corner.
Fresh controversies are in unending sup-
ply. Yet, there's still only one message that
really matters, stands above the rest, and
gives life. Oddly enough, it's old news! An
oldie but a goodie. The message has been
around for thousands of years.

This season I hope you can get excited about
sharing the good, old, everlasting news of
what God has done and continues to do. May
its familiarity, its goodness, and its depth
invigorate you much like your favorite song
playing on the radio.

Andy

calvary financial update

We are very thankful as a church that God provides for our financial needs. Throughout 2014 our income has approximated our expenses and our income is up five to ten percent. Our bank balance is positive and we help keep it that way by spending carefully and frugally.

We do expect our costs to rise to support the professional growth of our pastor and our income to decrease (temporarily) as our young membership transitions to new life phases. As we attempt to anticipate our needs we can see that we should increase spending by \$15,000 to \$20,000 or fifteen to twenty percent. Let's congratulate ourselves and thank God for our current financial position, pray for guidance for our efforts to increase our income by the required 15%. As always we are sure we will have compassion for our church family when we evaluate our own financial commitments and an understanding of our own individual financial limits.

good habitat news

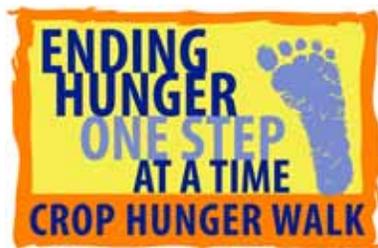
We had a great build season at the Good News houses on Rambling Rd. in Ypsilanti. Our work on both houses is complete and we have raised our \$900 goal, partly thanks to funds raised by the Calvary Cooks spaghetti dinner! Thank you to everyone for your work and support!

The Saul family will be the future homeowners of 1101 Rambling. See <http://www.goodnews-house.org/?q=node/34> for more information.

crop walk

You can participate in the CROP Walk which takes place on Sunday, October 12. 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.



enjoy singing?

The Calvary Singers practice at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. Join us starting September 14!

Contact Gerald or Sandra for more information.

Also prayerfully consider being a part of the Cool Calvary Praise Team! Openings are available for you!



staff sergeant george bigelow

Saluting one of our own Purple Heart recipients:

Earlier this year, George Bigelow appeared in a PBS documentary entitled D-DAY'S Sunken Secrets that was filmed in France. This is the second time he was featured in a documentary that chronicled his service in World War II. Seven years ago George was flown to England and France by National Geographic Channel for the filming of its program "Deep Wreck Mysteries: Sunk on Christmas Eve" on the sinking of his ship, the S.S. Leopoldville. The ship, a Belgian liner carrying 2,235 American soldiers from England to France was torpedoed six months after D-Day and was the single largest maritime casualty of the war. This time the PBS documentary focused on George, as the only living survivor from his squad, on the S.S. Leopoldville and also interviewed 8 other survivors from other ships that were sunk in World War II.

About a year ago, George traveled to France, accompanied by his daughter, Robin Winters who lives in St. Joseph, Michigan, to film the PBS and MC4 production that aired on May 28, 2014. I thought it would be interesting to learn more about this experience and gain other insights for our readers who might be curious. George and Robin graciously agreed to share the following memories and story for the newsletter.

When did you go to France to film the PBS documentary? August 2013

How long were you there? One week.

Was there anything that surprised you?

Robin- the expertise and resources that were involved, i.e., sonar technicians, archeologists, the incredible knowledge possessed, the depth of work that goes into a production, the extensive preparation and research that had been done, etc. When they first contacted me about the trip I was very cautious and a little skeptical about what was about to unfold. I questioned the qualifications of those involved, but quickly realized the high level of accomplished professionals that were orchestrating this filming.

George- the talent of the film crew and the kindness the French people showed toward the USA veterans.

**What emotions/reactions did the visit provoke?**

George—It was my second time to return to the site of this part of my past. Emotions this time were a little different. It was special this time because they invited Robin along and I could share it with her.

I felt bad for all the guys that didn't make it. Why did I make it? What did God have in mind in saving me vs. someone else?

Robin, I felt overwhelming gratitude for the soldiers' service and devotion to their country. The cemetery at Normandy had a renewed impact. The French people we encountered in that area were very appreciative of American efforts and expressed it, even the young people. In the USA so much of the World War II is getting abbreviated coverage in American History classes, but in France this piece of history seemed alive and young people seemed to know it well.

How many veterans were there at the filming?

About 8, but not all were there at the same time. (Pointing to a picture, George said, "Bill was there and we overlapped one day but he was on a different ship and I didn't know him.")

What were the things that kept you grounded/sustained you while your were serving in wartime?

George- the humorous things that happened kept me sane. I remember one of my men in my squad was short and when he jumped into the

foxhole that someone else dug, he couldn't even see to fire his weapon. We all got a great laugh from that when we looked down in the hole and realized he wouldn't be able to climb out of it either."

How long were you stationed overseas?

A year and a half overseas and one year and a half here in the USA. I was well prepared to execute military missions. We practiced tanks running over us in the states and were trained extensively in maneuvers. I particularly was assigned night vigil as part of my leadership responsibility. I had the reputation that when off-duty I could sleep 9 of the 10 minutes of break time.

How can we as citizens continue to honor you and others who served?

The everyday small things honor us. People will pick up my tab in a restaurant. People are very kind when they realize I am a veteran and a survivor of World War II-it pleases me very much. Every Memorial Day I am invited to a local parade by former neighbors. There have been special efforts to fly former soldiers into Washington D.C. to see the memorial. I think I have gotten more attention because I am more mobile than many of the veterans that are my contemporaries.

Besides surviving the torpedoing of your ship on Christmas Eve, what do you consider your greatest accomplishment in life?

I think of family first- then my extended family, i.e., the students that I taught.

The war changed me. I don't think I would have been a teacher. However, after surviving a near death experience I felt compelled to give back through a teaching career.

What are the greatest lessons that you learned when you were in the Army and how did those lessons serve you through the rest of your career and life?

George-Getting close to guys that I didn't know. They were almost like brothers. You would do anything for them and they would do anything for you.

Robin - And dad is that kind of person now and has been throughout life.

After not talking about it for so long, when did you have your first conversation with your family about your experience?

Robin- On Christmas Eve in 1999 after dinner we were cleaning up and were getting ready to go to church. Out of the blue, dad looks down at his watch and relates "I was floating in the English Channel about now in 1944." He proceeded to tell family for the first time about the torpedoing and they were spellbound. The soldiers were told not to say anything that would give the enemy information and that was the reason for silence for so long. My mom, Virginia, who he affectionately refers to as Ginny, had gotten him to go to a 50 Year Reunion at Fort Benning, GA in 1994. Reporters invited them and others to the reunion. Some of the families in attendance did not know their family members had gone down on the ship and learned it for the first time while there.

George-That's how cloaked in silence we all were.

What advice do you have for the younger generation?

Try to get along with people. I'd like to see all the different countries getting along.

When did you first come to Calvary United Methodist Church (CUMC)?

1954- Ginny's college roommate's husband was the assistant minister and thus Ginny's roommate invited us to come to Calvary.

What are your most memorable moments at CUMC?

I was superintendent of Sunday School and I would go around collecting the money and checking on the classrooms to see if they needed anything. Robin, as a child, would leave her classroom and would follow me around to all the others even though she was supposed to be engaged in her bible lessons. At the time there were about 8 different classrooms of Sunday school learners. As superintendent, I led the opening in the service and then invited all Sunday Schoolers to disperse to their classes.

How do your relax?

Reading, playing golf, and watching other sports

What are your favorite books you have read?

Mystery stories and my favorite authors are James Patterson and Robert B. Parker

What is your all time favorite movie?

An Affair to Remember-- starring Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr. Ginny's father was a minister and her religious upbringing wouldn't allow her to go to the movies. George had a 1932 Buick which he referred to as the Blue Baron. On the way to the movie theater it started raining. In order not to get rained on because the car roof leaked, Ginny

opened her umbrella inside the car. A tour bus with senior citizens pulled up beside them at a stoplight, spotted the umbrella raised within the car, and were very amused---laughing hardily at such a sight. When she and George arrived at the movies, Ginny was embarrassed and hoped nobody would see or recognize her entering the movie theater.

I know you and Virginia traveled extensively. What was your favorite or most memorable destination? Why?

We took our girls to Western Europe and it was their first time to travel across the Atlantic. We visited Amsterdam, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy. The NEA sponsored the trip and they were gone 32 days. It was during the summer of 1970. He still gets cards from the person that was the trip director. We logged a lot of miles on foot as we toured and the girls kept pace and were eager to keep walking even when we were totally exhausted.

Interview and comments captured by Marilyn Woolfolk – Author's note:

In the process of interviewing George and Robin, I learned a few other biographical facts about George. He was born in Pennsylvania and after his military discharge he graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill with his Bachelor's and Master's degree. George was a Business Education teacher in the AAPS system. He took some classes at UM when on sabbatical from Ann Arbor Public Schools. He started teaching 9th graders typing and business at Tappan Junior High School and taught night school classes in business at Pioneer. He retired in 1982 from teaching and then went to work for the IRS as a tax consultant until 1993. His wife, Virginia, graduated from Nazarine-Olivet College. They were married for more than 50 years before her death. He has one son, Larry, and two daughters, Robin Winters, and Becky Bush. George splits his time between Ann Arbor and sunny Florida.

I, for one, am totally in awe of George, who earned two Purple Hearts while serving his country. He maintains his sense of humor as evidenced when he quipped after we finished talking: "Now you know more than my mother knows!" Thank you George, you are special!!

birthdays

september

- 4 Sherri Givens
- 9 Janelle Gates
- 11 Jael Woolfolk
- 16 Karen Gate
Denise Leffler
- 23 Tom Jameson
- 25 Jerry Leonard
- 28 Justin Gates



anniversaries

september

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

october

- 11 Bob and Denise Leffler
- 30 Donna Reed and Michael Parow

october

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 Rachel Miller | 8 Donna Hughes | 18 Rose Smith-Woollams |
| 7 Chuck Sanders | 15 Geoffrey Smith-Woollams | 21 Daniel Roberts |

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.

DONATION COLLECTION – September 14 (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

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING – Thursday, September 18, 5:00 pm

NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY and SUNDAE SUNDAY – Sunday, Sept 21

Come to Calvary for this special day and invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We'll enjoy Ice Cream Sundaes during fellowship time!

WORSHIP MEETING – Wednesday, October 1, 5:30 pm

NURTURE MEETING – Thursday, October 2, 5:30 pm

CROP WALK – Sunday, October 12

Sign up to walk or sponsor a walker to help fight hunger!

DONATION COLLECTION – October 12 (and every 2nd Sunday)

CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER – Saturday, October 18, 4-7 pm

Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

DONATION COLLECTION – November 14 (and every 2nd Sunday)

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Saturday, November 15, 5:30 pm

Details to come...contact Carol Miller is you want to help out!

Weekly Activities:

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST at Village Kitchen, 241 N Maple, 8 am

Start one morning a week with a GOOD breakfast and GREAT fellowship.



Spaghetti Dinner



Meet for Breakfast

Sept/Oct 2014

THIS MONTH

Calvary United Methodist Church
1415 Miller
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



**Bring
a
Friend**

Please check and return to church office to cancel newsletter

The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

Rev. Andy Lee, Pastor
1415 Miller, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

(734) 769-0869
calvary1415@att.net
<http://a2calvary.org>

Sunday Worship 10:00
Sunday School 11:15



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/>

Still want a printed newsletter?

Calvary will be transitioning 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!