



THIS MONTH

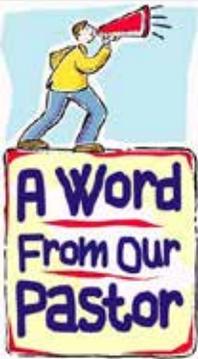
Sept/Oct 2015



The Calvary United Methodist Church Newsletter

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minister's message



Several months ago, my friend stumbled upon a discount at a golfing range so I decided to tag along. While I'm aware we have plenty of gentlemen at Calvary that possess a fine golf swing, I, unfortunately, am not one of them. Left to my own devices, I managed to hit to golf ball about

100 feet. Admittedly, it's not much, but I felt a sense of pride whenever I managed to create contact with the ball. After a few minutes, my friend began giving me pointers like "keep your arm straight" or "loosen up" or "remember to follow through."

Honestly speaking, when I was hitting the golf balls by myself, it was a lot more fun. I was free to do my own thing and simply enjoy myself. With my friend now instructing me, it felt like I was in class or at work, but the results spoke for themselves. Either I could have fun hitting the ball a measly 100 feet, or I could listen, learn, work and produce vast improvements in my golf swing.

In the life of the church, there will be moments when everything comes easy. Yes, there's a season for that. For me, I call it "summer." There are also moments when participating in ministry can be laborious, draining, and mundane. During these

times, it might be helpful for us to remember how Paul, on occasion, would refer to his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as "co-workers." They were co-workers, because they all strived toward the same goal as they held the same purpose: build the kingdom of God on earth.

This fall when it's time to plan for an event and we're stuck in a meeting for what seems to be 20 minutes too long, remember we are building the kingdom of God. If we find ourselves wondering if it's worth it to implement a new idea and incur all the headaches that might bring, remember we are building the kingdom of God. Finally, when you don't have the desire to attend to the vital spiritual disciplines of prayer and reading of the scriptures in your life, remember we are building the kingdom of God.

In the midst of our labors, may we be encouraged by the words find in Isaiah 43:19, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." My fellow co-workers, I think you do perceive this new thing God is doing in our lives. Let us go forth with joy in our hearts as we work to build God's kingdom.

Grace and Peace,

Andy

eat well and do good

Participate in a fundraiser for the Habitat Good News House by eating out at the TGI Fridays at 3015 Lohr Rd in Ann Arbor on Thursday, June 4. Just bring in the ticket from the back page and 20% of your pre-tax (non-alcohol) sales will be donated to the Good News House! Invite your friends and family! Flyers will also be available at church.

enjoy singing?

The Calvary Singers practice at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. Join us starting September 13! Contact Gerald or Sandra for more information.

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

our friend Ruth

Ruth Jessie Husung, born November 9, 1921, was an active member of Calvary United Methodist congregation since the early 1970s and generously gave her time, talent, and treasures to our church. **With her time**, she served on the Trustee Board, the Administrative Board, and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, chaired the Council of Ministries Committee and was the editor of the Calvary Newsletter for a number of years. **With her talent**, Ruth sang in the choir, often attended the Adult Sunday School Class, regularly participated in Synergy Sunday and entered assorted Talent Show Nights. At a Mother-Daughter banquet some 20 years ago, Ruth and Donna Hughes were in a Goldie Locks Skit as Mama Bear (Donna) and Papa Bear (Ruth). Donna remembers that for years after that performance they always kidded each other about their amateur theatrics!

The personal side:

Ruth especially liked the birthday potlucks. She shared having a month of November birthday with Ed Wier, myself, and a few others so our table was always populated and somebody always baked a delicious cake decorated for a November theme. Cake was indeed, one of her favorite



desserts. The picture here (courtesy of Barbara Robinson) captures Ruth cutting into a cake as we celebrated her 90th birthday during Fellowship Hour in November 2011.

In spite of being born in Ohio, Ruth's University of Michigan loyalty and spirit was always on display—e.g. the Michigan Flag waving from her car during football season and, of course, all the Maize and Blue attire and accessories she could get decked out in when the occasion summoned it. And oh how she loved Halloween and all its fanfare.

She liked to travel by plane or by car. She drove (often solo) many miles to see family and friends in FL, Rochester, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

She liked to take pictures. Indeed, in the last years when she was not hearing as well, we found pictures a meaningful way to communicate with her. Even on our last visit this past February; she chuckled as we showed her recent pictures of our kids and grandkids.

A little quirky in a good way!!

This picture of soda can tabs, that appeared in the July 2015 issue of Real Simple Magazine, reminded me of Ruth and her diligence in assuring Calvary collected tabs to give to Ronald McDonald House. She also helped with our collection of other items for various causes such as Campbell's Soup labels, used eyeglasses, and yellow slips. Some of you may be asking what are Yellow Slips? Long term Ann Arborites will tell you about collecting yellow slips from dining at Bill Knapp's Restaurant (how's that for a real blast



from the past) to acquire new office equipment and folding chairs for the church.

When I asked various people how they remembered Ruth and her impact at Cal-

vary there were several themes voiced: lively sense of humor and wit, devoted caregiver, diligent church worker, generous, jolly, Godly woman, a sister in Christ, dedicated and loyal friend among other positive descriptors. In signing her Memorial Guest Book, Doug Olsen, a former pastor here, wrote that Ruth was a wonderful, kind and thoughtful member of Calvary.

Ruth's love of people made it easy for her to relate to all ages and walks of life--

from toddlers, elementary, junior high, and HS students, to college students, professors, deans, custodians, waitresses, and construction workers, etc. Some of our Calvary youth learned money management skills and the fruits of hard labor as they mowed or raked her lawn for healthy compensation! Dion Woolfolk wrote; "As a teenager I appreciated that she allowed me to do odd jobs for her even though she still had enough spunk to do it herself! She truly displayed quite a bit of gusto!"

Hannah Wallace also described Ruth as "very lively". She remembers one service when Ruth shared her collection of wood articles, holding each one up and describing it in extensive detail. Hannah says she observed the passion Ruth put into telling about each item and it has motivated her to want to express such passion in the things she likes to do. Hannah also piped in that Ruth loved music. "She would always tell me how much she liked the music I played on the 'flute' (even though she must have known that it was really an 'oboe') and that was her humorous side coming through. She was a joy!"

When Pastor Andy Lee began his tenure at Calvary, he was able to meet Ruth and visited her at Glacier Hills. Even in declining health, her spunk and spirit were palpable.

Ruth's devotion to her long time friend and housemate, Mary Schroder, (whose health began to wane) led Ruth into new territory as an ardent caregiver. In this domain, Al Storey cited Ruth's toughness and dependability, while also expounding on her jovial demeanor, generosity, and ability to keep a sense of humor even in difficult times.

As I continued to solicit input for this article, people referenced Ruth's work on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. God used Ruth to spread awareness of the illness through her

passion and dedication to bettering the lives of people with dementia. She became a tireless advocate for the Alzheimer's Association and was an annual walker in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in Washtenaw County for as long as she was physically able. She had a standard practice of contacting friends and family, fellow churchmen, and a host of others to contribute, mailing post cards to announce the date and reiterate the importance of finding a cure for this debilitating disease. I am particularly grateful for what I learned from Ruth's determination to make a difference in this arena. In many ways, the curse of the disease fostered our in depth friendship that perhaps otherwise would not

have been cultivated. When my mom, Gladys Porter, was struggling with memory issues and we as a family were in the throes of dealing with her advancing Alzheimer's illness, Ruth was very helpful in identifying resources and strategies for managing the various stages of my mom's growing impairment.

Ed Wier offered his sentiments of praise: "Ruth was a special part of Calvary.

Her humor always stood out - and she seemed to particularly enjoy sharing the "corny" jokes. She always called me "Eddie" - which was fun and it served as a reminder of the length of our relationship (since she knew me since I was a boy).

For many years I helped organize "Synergy Sunday" - a Calvary worship service that consisted entirely of lay participation. Ruth loved the service and I knew I could always count on her... and my mother :) to share something meaningful. And of course Ruth always brought humor to her contribution. I recall a time she filled a jar with water, and then sand, then pebbles, then rocks - I think she actually used golf balls - and it wouldn't all fit. She then reversed the order and everything nicely filled the jar. The point was to make room in your life for the important things first - everything else fits in around that. What a great lesson! I feel blessed to have had Ruth in my life for so many years - I know her influence will remain with all of us."

George Bigelow described Ruth as a "giver of warm hugs" and seemingly to have a smile always; doesn't remember her being down. Indeed, she was an inspired "giver". **With her treasures, she**



gave generously over the years to Calvary United Methodist Church and the enormous recent gift that she bequeathed to the church through her estate is just one more example of her giving heart!

Ed previously mentioned that Ruth always shared something meaningful on Synergy Sunday. For me, one of her memorable renditions was a reading of the following poem:

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied,

"Throwing starfish back into the ocean.

The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son". The man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?

You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf.

Then, smiling at the man, he said,

"I made a difference for that one."

---Loren Easley

Ruth Husung must be smiling from heaven because she made a difference for so many!!

We have all been enriched by Ruth's spirit and faithfulness to the ministries at Calvary. A retired nurse, she epitomized in her personal life, all the virtues we associate with a nurse—caring, compassionate, dedicated professional.

As a faithful Christian, she epitomized in her spiritual life, all the virtues of being a disciple of Christ --loving others through actions and deeds.

We miss her dearly, but will never forget her as an integral part of our congregation. Her memory brightly burns among our emotional treasures. With grateful hearts, we acknowledge all that she has done and honor the legacy that she leaves in our trust.

Submitted with great fondness for one of God's angels,

Marilyn Woolfolk

**Thanks to all who helped with these reflections.

birthdays

september

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



october

- 4 Rachel Miller
- 7 Chuck Sanders
- 8 Donna Hughes
- 15 Geoffrey Smith-Woollams
- 18 Rose 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.

CALVARY COOKS SPAGHETTI DINNER – Saturday, September 12, 5-8 pm
Community spaghetti dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

FOOD COLLECTION – September 13 (and every 2nd Sunday)

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING – Thursday, Sept 16, 5:30 pm.

HABITAT GOOD NEWS FUNDRAISER AT TGI FRIDAYS – September 24
Use the ticket on the back page of the newsletter to raise 20% of your meal at TGI Fridays at 3015 Lohr Rd, Ann Arbor

CROP WALK – Sunday, October 11
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.

FOOD COLLECTION – October 11 (and every 2nd Sunday)

HABITAT GOOD NEWS FUNDRAISER AT TGI FRIDAYS – October 20
Use the ticket on the back page of the newsletter to raise 20% of your meal at TGI Fridays at 3015 Lohr Rd, Ann Arbor

NURTURE/OUTREACH/WORSHIP MEETING – Thursday, October 29, 5:30 pm

FOOD COLLECTION – November 8 (and every 2nd Sunday)

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
Enjoy a second special 6-week weekly yoga class scheduled to run October 1-November 19! Open to all--first class free, \$8/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!



anniversaries

september

- 3 Judy and Ed Wier
- 19 Ruth and George Thompson



october

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

Sept/Oct 2015

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Calvary United Methodist Church
1415 Miller
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



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

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/>



Join us at T.G.I. FRIDAY'S ®

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S ® restaurants are helping us raise funds by holding a fundraiser event. On the date and time listed below, 20% of all the pre-tax sales* will be generated by this ticket to:

Habitat for Humanity Good News House

Organization

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S ® restaurant address:

3015 Lohr Rd, Ann Arbor

Date: **Sept 24 & Oct 20** Time: **All Day!**

Bring this ticket to TGI Fridays! om

*Alcohol sales excluded.