

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2017

4201 TRANSCONTINENTAL DRIVE
METAIRIE, LA 70006



**JESUS IS THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON**

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

From



The Study Window

The giving and receiving of gifts is a major part of Christmas. The anticipation and excitement is wonderful for both children and adults. Gift giving is a joyful and wonderful activity. The deeper significance of gift giving comes from God's gift to us of the Christ child and the gifts the Magi brought to the Christ Child.

The reality of love makes giving possible. Gift giving is a sign of the meaning of a human relationship. The gifts we give are extensions of ourselves, not just our resources but our very being. The gift without the giver is bare. In fact, gifts are transparent in that the care of the giver is revealed in the gift itself. As we prepare for Christmas, we need to focus on this and make sure that it doesn't get lost in the excitement and rush of the season.

The delightful story, The Gift of the Magi, emphasizes the giving of self in a thought provoking way. A poor young couple, very much in love with each other, sacrifice what is most personal and important to each of them to buy a gift for the other. The young woman cuts and sells her beautiful long hair to buy a watch chain for her husband's gold watch, which is their most valuable possession. He, for his part, sells the watch, an inheritance from his father, to buy sterling silver decorative combs for his wife's hair.

Many see this as a foolish lack of communication. And indeed, in a strictly logical way it is. But at a deeper level, the story reveals the very essence of giving and receiving. We give ourselves to another. The gift we wrap is the sign of the larger gift of our love. It is incalculable in cost and unexplainable in purpose. But it does not have to be explained. It is understood.

Unfortunately, in the joy of Christmas gift giving there is often much disappointment. Mental health workers make no secret of the fact that case loads rise significantly at Christmas. Tinsel, eggnog and jingle bells are not enough for a day so rich in human possibility and divine promise.

Our lives, as you are well aware, are not always neat and tidy. We carry a great deal of baggage with us. Memories are uncomfortable as well as wonderful. Guilt and grief are not displaced by colorful wrapping paper and a well decorated home. A more profound sense of the meaning of giving and receiving and living in relationship is needed and it is available. It is found in the Christmas story.

God's gift to us was a person, no tinsel or colored lights but a promise of love. As Christians we claim to see love in God's gift of self at Christmas time. When we follow that example and seek to transparently give ourselves to others in love, it moves our lives in new directions.

In Christ's Service
Rev. Harry Brown

THE M U S I C C O R N E R



By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master



FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

We are pleased to present the premiere performance of William R. Memmott's newest composition, the cantata "The Christmas Suite" on Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

While still in high school he was the orchestrator of the Senior Night Musical. He then went on to study with Milton Babbitt (renowned composer and teacher) at Princeton University (also with composer Edward Cone). He also studied piano with Marino Nardelli, and organ with Dr. Charlotte Garden (Union Seminary), Dr. Karl Weinrich (Princeton University), and Jean Langlais (from Paris, France).

After a musical career that included many churches in New York City, St. Louis, and New Orleans, the founding of the Rider University Glee Club, the Pro Arte Chorale in northern New Jersey and the Bel Canto Chorus and Orchestra in St. Louis, and many other professional positions, he "retired" to New Orleans, picking up his musical career here. It also included two more degrees in composition from the University of New Orleans under composers Michael Rihner and Yotam Haber.

Over the years he composed several more cantatas and oratorios including "My God, My God (Easter)," "Nowell, Nowell (Christmas)", and "For Such a Time As This (Masters Degree with orchestra - the story of Esther)."

In considering what to sing for this Christmas (after 22 semi-annual concerts with the John Calvin Presbyterian Church choir, soloists and orchestra, he realized that there were many of his Christmas pieces that had never been performed. He compiled these and orchestrated them as a new work for this year, "The Christmas Suite." It includes the canticles from Luke, Christmas choruses, carols and solos. See ad elsewhere in the Commentary.

Following the service on the 17th, a Christmas Luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Eleven years ago our first program with Mr. Memmott was excerpts from John Stainer's "The Crucifixion." On Palm Sunday 1918, the Music Corner will perform the full cantata. This moving cantata was the premiere sacred work of the nineteenth century. It will be performed with a new orchestration by Craig Hawkins. Our invitation is extended to new singers (we begin rehearsals in January).

SOLI DEO GLORIA



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 10:30 A.M.

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF

"THE CHRISTMAS SUITE"

BY
WILLIAM R. MEMMOTT, ASCAP

INCLUDING:

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS:

**CHRISTMAS CANTICLES FROM LUKE,
CAROLS, CHORUSES AND SOLOS**

SANDY CRANFILL, SOPRANO

SHARON FORTIN, SOPRANO

KELLY KRON, ALTO

DAVID BLOOM, TENOR

RON PALMISANO, BASS

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

**ORCHESTRA FROM THE LOUISIANA
PHILHARMONIC**

JULIE ETLAND, PIANO

WILLIAM R. MEMMOTT, CONDUCTING

***** Free luncheon following in Fellowship Hall *****



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader

THE YOUTH CORNER



November 4th the youth group did community service at Second Harvest. They helped label and package food. We had 12 youth volunteer for this event. They were a great help and I am very proud them for spending their Saturday morning doing service.



**Thankful for our volunteers at
John Calvin Presbyterian Church**



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS
DECEMBER



The senior and junior high youth will be bowling at:

Fulton Alley in New Orleans

(600 Fulton St, New Orleans, LA 70130)

Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 3:30-5:30.

*I have to give Fulton Alley a final number by December 8, so please let me know before then. It will be **\$15.00 per youth** to attend, and that includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza or sliders, and soft drinks!

(As always, scholarships are available).

****Adults are welcome to attend, but it will be \$15.00 for them as well, and that does not include bowling.***

Snippets

From Presbyterian Women



The PW "Cookie Swap"
will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 10th**
from **3-5**, in the *Library*.



**Christmas
Cookies**



Everyone is invited...
members, non-members, males and females!

You are invited...
to the John Calvin White Elephant Party!

Saturday, December 9 at 4:00 pm

This year's hosts are Joey and Paula Palermo

106 Thoroughbred Avenue

Montz, LA

****** Meet at the church to carpool ******



Please bring an appetizer or dessert and your wrapped gift.

(one gift per person – adults only)

NEARLY \$1500 FROM



PROGRAM OF HOPE!

The Nearly New Gift Sale (formerly known as the White Elephant Sale)...
Did well again this year!

We brought in enough for nearly 150 overnight vouchers for homeless people to spend a night in the Salvation Army homeless shelter.

The bulk of the proceeds came from sales from the Circle Booth...

We sold 85% of what you see here!!



But we were supplemented by a sweets booth of baked goods, a hotdog lunch booth, booths from Parkway Presbyterian, First Presbyterian of New Orleans, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian, and Parkway Preschool, plus 3 fabulous booths from our church members and friends!

Sandy Cranfill had a wonderful booth of antiques, handmade children's clothes and doll clothes and her famous breads. Julie Etland had a double booth of fun items from children's clothing and toys to Christmas trinkets. Julie also provided music to the entire Fellowship Hall with recordings of her fabulous piano playing. What a great atmosphere it created. Julie had a friend who just came into a huge cache of brand new and barely used items. These provided goods for a triple booth set-up!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale, the set-up, the clean up, and who donated items to sell and items to eat. *Thank you once a again for a wonderful sale!*



12/01 Emilie Reeks

12/15 Suzie Craig

12/01 Travis Corley

12/15 Linda Lowry

12/03 Nell Wiederspahn

12/17 Julie Hebert

12/04 Caroline Fernandez

12/19 Judy Tracy

12/09 Maggie Walker

12/29 Margaret Corcoran

12/10 David Russo

12/31 Maureen Nelson

12/11 Alexandria Amelia Schaefer

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



December

January

- 1st: P/S Christmas Pictures
- 3rd: 1st Sunday of Advent
> *Yth Christmas Play Practice Sundays: 3,10,17 & 21*
- 4th: Worship CM @ 5:30 /CR
- 5th: PW Council Mtg @ 10a (Lbry)
- 6th: Angel Tree Rec'v Gifts—**Last Day...**
- 7th: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 8th: P/S Angel-Angel Practices Begin (**Wkdys 8-12th**)
- 9th: White Elephant Party @ Palermo's - 4:00p 
- 10th: Hazel's Retirement Celebration during 10:30 Wrs
> C/E CM after Worship
> PW Cookie Exch 3-5p (Lbry) 
- 11th: P/S CM—noon
> Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 12th: Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 13th: P/S Angel!Angel! TK Christmas Play 
- 14th: P/S 3's Xmas Program **14th & 16th**
- 15th: Christmas Concert Set-up @ 3:00pm
- 16th: Christmas Concert Rehearsal 10-12)
> *Yth Fulton Bowling 3:30-5:30*
- 17th: **NO 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE**
> **CHRISTMAS CONCERT & LUNCHEON**
- 18th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 19th: P/S Christmas Break / Teacher Luncheon (No Extended Care)
- 24th: Christmas Eve Svcs 10:30a/5:00p/7:00p
- 25th: Merry Christmas 
- 25th-26th: Church Ofc Closed-Christmas Holiday
- 27th **NO CHOIR PRACTICE**
- 31st: New Year's Eve 
> **NO 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE**

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Note: * Committee Mtg. time changes may not be reflected, above times are based on a reoccurring schedule only.

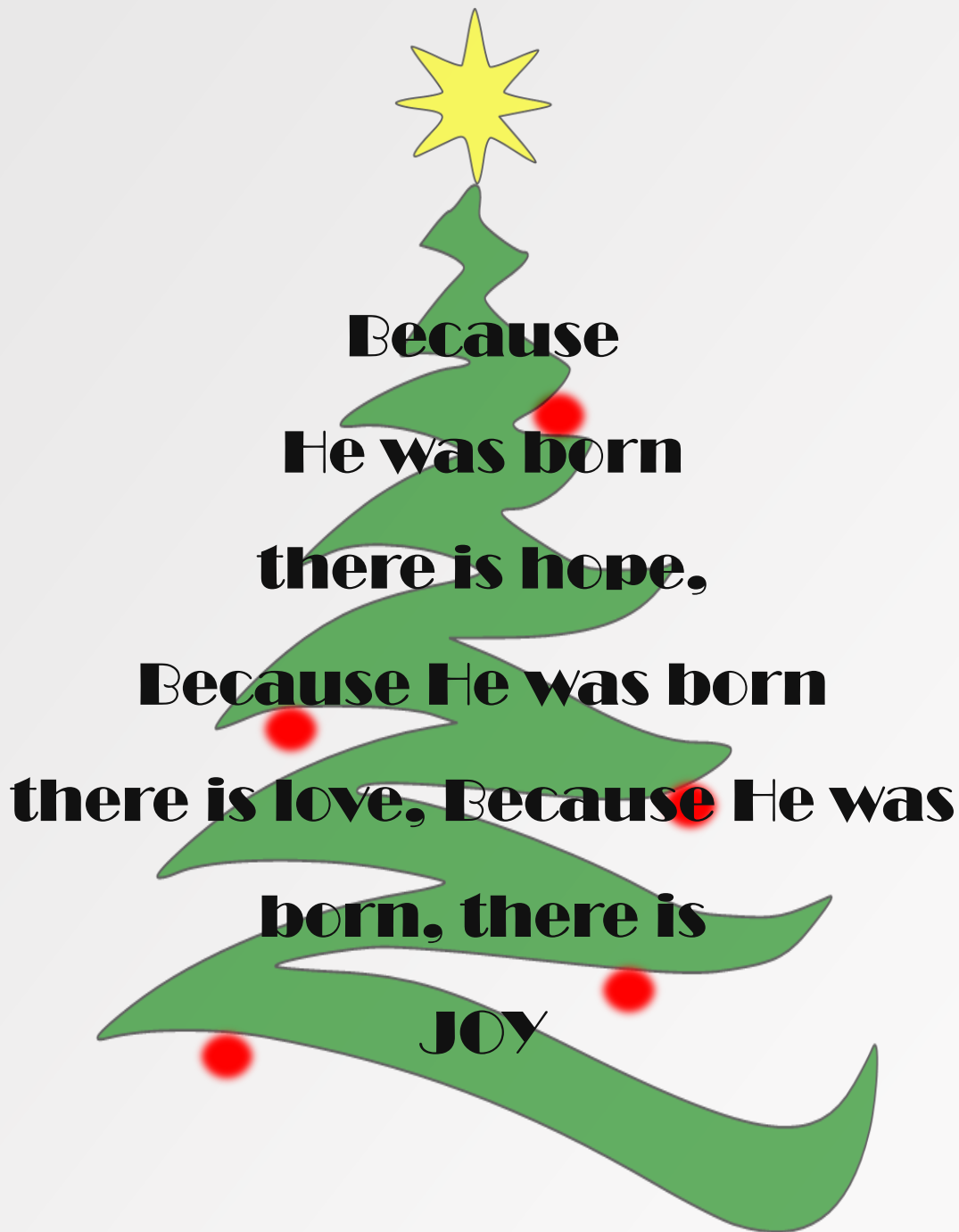
- 1st: Happy New Year 
> Church Ofc Closed-New Year's Holiday
- 4th: P/S Resumes
> P/S Little Ceasar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser **BEGINS**
> PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 8th: P/S CM—noon
> Worship CM @ 5:30p(CR)
> Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 9th: PW Council Mtg @ 10a (Lbry)
> Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)
> Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 11th: P/S Open House 6:30-8:30p (Sanc/FH)
- 12th: P/S Little Ceasar's Pizza Kit Fundraiser **ENDS**
- 14th: Elder Ordination (**TBD**)
> C/E CM after Worship
- 15th: **MLK Day**
> P/S No School MLK Holiday
- 16th: Grace Circle @ 9:30a (Lbry)
- 16th-17th: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 18th: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 21st: *Yth SPCA @ 1:00p*
- 22nd: P/S TK Registration Due
> Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 28th: Congregational Mtg (**TBD**)
- 29th: P/S Church Member Registration
- 31st: **FULL MOON** 
> P/S Current Student/Sibling Registration

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2017

**Holiday Greetings
to our Church Family**



*May this hope, love, and joy be yours
this Christmas and in the blessing of a New Year
Pastor Harry & Laurell*

Hazel Julien's Retirement Announcement

*Our beloved custodian is retiring
after more than 12 years of service with
John Calvin Presbyterian Church and Playschool.*

*We will be celebrating Hazel's
dedication and service on December 10th,
at our 10:30 Worship Service, and presenting her with a
monetary gift. If you would like to make a donation towards
Hazel's gift, please do so no later than December 6th.*

John Calvin Presbyterian Church



“Freed by the Fire, Renewed by the Flood, and Empowered by the Spirit”