

CALVIN COMMENTARY

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JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2018



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From



The Study Window

From the Study Window

Lent a Time of Preparation

Just as we set aside time to prepare our hearts for Christmas and the coming of Christ child into the world, we need to set time aside to prepare for Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time for us to prepare our hearts for what God is doing in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time for us to reflect on the ways we fall short of what God is calling us to be, the ways we fail to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Like Advent, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and come to understand our Lord more fully. When we come to the events of Holy Week it's not just another time to be in church but an opportunity to receive and rejoice in the overflowing of God's grace, forgiveness, and new life.

Unlike the childlike joy associated with the season of Advent, with its joyful anticipation of the coming of the Christ child, the wonder of angels singing, shepherds coming to the manger, and wise men bringing gifts; Lent is an intensely penitential time. It is a time for us to examine our sinful natures and repent of the ways we time and again ignore God's will for us. Lent is a time to reflect on what our Lord did for us in the agony of the cross and separation from his Father. It is also a time to look forward to the hope that is ours in Christ when we will be raised with him and "every tear will be dried".

It is as we look in our minds eye; look into the eyes of Christ on the cross and see the pain there that we grow in our understanding of what Christ has done for us in dying on the cross and the greatness of that gift. It is as we look into his eyes that we come to understand that God is not some nebulous energy source or a grandfather sitting in the clouds. God is our creator who loves deeply and has given his only Son that in his sacrifice our sins might be wiped away and we can live in relationship with him growing into what we are intended to be. It is Christ's life, death, and resurrection that give us the forgiveness and hope we need to live as God's people.

This year our Wednesday night Lenten Services will focus on dialogues between God and various disciples. Throughout the Old and New Testament, we hear passages about the "voice of God" speaking to people. In our series of Lenten dramas, the voice of God will consistently speak the message of God, word of forgiveness, compassion, and eternity to those people near the cross. As we listen to these words, we will hear God speaking to us through them and drawing us deeper into all that Christ has done for us.

Each of the dramas catches one of the disciples at a particular moment in the events of the crucifixion and invites us to listen to what God says at that particular moment to that person. I look forward to hearing the voice of God and being drawn deeper into all that Christ has done for us as we hear and respond in our own hearts.

The worship services will begin with finger food served in the narthex and we will move to worship at 6:30 into the sanctuary. Come and listen to the struggles of the disciples and the way God responds. As you do, you will be blessed.

In Christ' Service

Rev. Harry Brown

Wednesday Night Lenten Worship



Hors-d'oeuvres and fellowship in the church narthex at 6

Worship at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

The worship service will begin at six thirty and will involve a dialogue between God and one of the people involved in the events leading up to Jesus crucifixion. Ash Wednesday will be a dialogue between God and James who fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane. Come and grow in your understanding of what our Lord has done for us.

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By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master

FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

Following the morning service little Ricky (12 years old and short) waited for my postlude to finish and then asked me: "Can I take piano and organ lessons from you?" And so began our journey together. His feet didn't reach the pedals. But he was very eager. His father gave up smoking in order to afford payments on an organ to practice on at home. He made great progress and went on to get a playing degree from the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music, and then move on into a professional career as a church musician. He is currently Minister of Music at Peace Lutheran Church in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Several months ago he wrote to ask if I would help him celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of that first lesson. As one of my prize students, I readily accepted the invitation (to play a joint recital in Ft. Myers on February 2nd).

My point is this: those of us who are teachers, need to recognize how essential our role is as mentors for those who come to us. Whether it is in public/private schools, universities, Sunday School, or private lessons, what we offer those who follow us is important work -- sharing our knowledge and skills with the next generation. We don't often get the thanks "we deserve." But when we do it is a great reward for what we have given and passed on.

An added dividend at my visit and sharing the bench with Ric Jaeggi in Ft. Myers, will be a visit with his sister Sue and her husband who will celebrate with him. She also sang in that choir and was the second soprano in the girls trio who sang for evening services at Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri..

It is seldom that churches help their leaders celebrate important anniversaries. When they do it is an encouragement to be a Paul for their Timothy. Such faithfulness has great rewards.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader



THE YOUTH CORNER

Happy New Year, January was a great month for our youth. We welcomed children to our Sunday school classes January 7th with king cake for breakfast. In January we had 4 great lessons in Sunday school.

On January 28th we had 8 youth attend the SPCA service day. We broke up in three groups and did a service project. Claire, David, and Matthew cleaned cat litter containers for dog food to be stored in when pets go up for foster care. Kate, Mia, and Nancy painted bones for the Barkus float that the SPCA has in the parade. Josh, Megan, Christian, and I painted swords for the Barkus float. The theme this year is Game of Bones. It was a lot of fun for the youth and also a lot of work. They did a great job and we can't wait to see the end result of the float. After doing our service project we had a tour of the SPCA. That day they had 242 animals. We got to see a horse, dogs, and cats. The children enjoyed playing with the animals and learning about the rescue process.



GAME OF BONES
BARKUS MARKS ITS TERRITORY

BARKUS ROLLS
 FEBRUARY 4th—2pm
 Begins at Armstrong Park




CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS



The Youth are collecting
money for the hungry
following Worship on February 4th

JCPC YOUTH GROUP GUMBO DAY



The JCPC Youth Group is planning a Gumbo Day on February 25th after the 10:30 worship service. It will be put on by both the youth and their families. We will need more than one youth family contributing gumbo. The children will set up the Fellowship Hall for this event and serve the congregation a gumbo lunch. If you would rather your child make their favorite dessert or just come to help, that is great also. This will be fun for the kids to be waiters and waitresses. They will be guided by the CE committee.

Please RSVP:

Julie Hebert @ 504-920-8151 or
Julie.hebert@johncalvinchurch.org

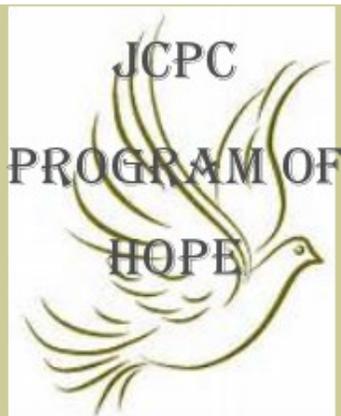
JOHN CALVIN CHOSEN AS CONVENTION SITE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JOHN CALVIN HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS (LFMC) AS ITS CONVENTION SITE - APRIL 6, 7. THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS (NFMC) IS ONE OF THE OLDEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, FOCUSING ON PROMOTING MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY, MUSICAL EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES, AND FACILITATING MUSICAL COMPETITIONS. THE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES MANY PIANO, STRINGS, AND VOICE TEACHERS, AS WELL, AS - SIMPLY, PEOPLE WHO LOVE MUSIC!

AFTER A BUSINESS MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 6TH (CHURCH LIBRARY), MUSICAL PERFORMANCES WILL BE PRESENTED IN TWO SESSIONS ON APRIL 7TH – THREE (3) IN THE MORNING, WHILE THE **HAPPY DOG DUO** (CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE), WINNERS OF THE NFMC ELLIS DUO COMPETITION (BIENNIAL NATIONAL COMPETITION) AND A PRIZE OF \$20,000, WILL ENTERTAIN WITH DUO PIANO DUETS IN THE AFTERNOON. ALL PERFORMANCES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SANCTUARY. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW AS THEY DEVELOP. FOR THEIR KIND CONSIDERATION AND GUIDANCE, WE THANK: *MRS. GWEN REDDING, LFMC PRESIDENT; MARY MONSTED, METAIRIE MUSIC CLUB PRESIDENT; AND, MELANIE PEREZ, LFMC PAST PRESIDENT, AND NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER.*



Highlights

First, we would like to extend many thanks to all our volunteers in January. The program resumed at First Presbyterian on January 10th after the suspension of two weeks during the holidays. Not surprisingly, the turnout of homeless was smaller than normal that first Wednesday, only to see near record turnout on the third Wednesday (of participation) – right at 100. The Wednesday in between these two was cancelled due to the hard freeze with its hazardous conditions. However, braving the tough conditions, Sharon and Mike Fortin rose to the challenge, delivering our sandwiches to the Catholic Charities historic Ozanam Inn on Camp St. downtown. The lunches were particularly well received as much of the Inn’s regular staff was out. One Wednesday remains as of this moment – we are preparing for another large turnout – increasing the number of sandwiches made!

We would be terribly remiss if we neglected to recognize the Playschool and its parents for its continuing annual tradition in providing us with a largess of “winter coats” – for both children and adults. This winter has been particularly challenging. The distribution of the six large trash bags of coats and other outerwear is ongoing. Thank you Playschool/PS parents for this important/critical donation!

Here are John Calvin’s volunteers: ***Amy Cardinale, Ann Trapani, Barbara Eagan, Lorraine Hicks, Sue Crawford, Barbara Remmelts, Barbara Taylor, Carol Formaux, Barbara McHan, Margaret Corcoran, Ernie Price, Richard Britson, Sharon and Mike Fortin, Carolyn Calvin and George McLain.***



A good story...

So you are enjoying your 3rd King Cake and figuring out which parade you will attend (or how to get around the ones in your way!). But it was only a few weeks ago that we were all stuck in our homes by sleet and ice on the roads. You may have been literally frozen into your home, like I was frozen out of my car!

The rain started on Tuesday afternoon and turned to sleet covering everything with a shell of ice. We were in for winter weather seldom seen in our area. However, long before even the rain started, before we knew how bad it was going to get, we were making sandwiches for Program of Hope. Richard Britson called around in the morning to see if Program of Hope was still going to happen. All indications were that it was a "go". He purchased the sandwich makings and the bananas and got them to the church where our trusty sandwich makers all came to work their magic putting together wholesome, yummy sandwiches for distribution the next day. Everyone got home safely knowing they had completed a job well done.

But of course, that evening the weather hit. I got up early to get ready for the day's lunch distribution only to find all of the freeways completely closed, my car completely frozen over, and Program of Hope cancelled. Hurray for a "snow day"! After a few hours relaxing into quiet home activities I seldom have time for, I started thinking about those yummy sandwiches and the cold hungry people out there who probably needed them. Those sandwiches wouldn't be any good in another week.

An exchange of e-Mails with the Program of Hope bunch revealed several suggestions for places that might be able to use our sandwiches and bananas. My intention was to take them on Thursday or Friday when the weather was better. Most places I called didn't answer, but one, Ozanam Inn, recommended by several people, was eager. When I got off of the phone, I talked to Mike who was home from work for the day. Could we go together and deliver the sandwiches that day? It was supposed to get warmer, maybe even get above freezing. Was this a wise thing to do?

Always up for an adventure, we headed out at about 1:30. The temperature was still below freezing and the freeways still all closed, but if we took Airline Highway to Transcontinental to pick up the goods from the church and back out to Airline to Tulane to downtown, we could avoid the freeways and make a careful go of it. The Ozanam Inn is close to the WWII Museum. We had a long trek to make.

On arrival, the fellow in charge was so grateful! He was the only one working because his coworkers couldn't get through the ice. They were very short of food, and he had many mouths to feed. Our sandwiches and the extra blessing of fresh bananas seemed almost like a miracle. With joy in our hearts we carefully made our way on Airline back home to Destrehan and our warm home.

When you donate to support Program of Hope, when you help with the White Elephant Sale, when you come out on Tuesday's to make sandwiches, or on Wednesday to help with distribution, did you even think we'd be helping even more people? What a wonderful blessing John Calvin Presbyterian Church is! You are all amazing!

... Thank you

Playschool News

We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. This month we are learning about winter, dental health, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras. We are already gearing up for the fair in March and trying to get donations for the silent auction.

A COUPLE IMPORTANT PLAYSCHOOL DATES TO NOTE:

FEBRUARY 5: ALUMNI/ WAIT LIST REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 7-9: KREWE OF JOHN CALVIN PARADES

FEBRUARY 12-16: MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS

FEBRUARY 19: OPEN REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 22-23: GROUP PICTURES



Save the Date!

John Calvin Playschool Art & Fun Festival

Saturday March 17, 2018

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Game Booths

Silent Auction

Student Performances

Food & Drinks

Student Artwork on Display

Face Painting

Zoo 2 U Petting Zoo

Maze

*This festival is our school's biggest fundraiser and the profits go directly into making our playground better this year.

Thank you for your support and time and for helping to make our festival a huge success!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Joseph Palermo	02/03
Mark Bone	02/05
Ginny Thomas	02/06
Jacob Russo	02/07
Lenny Nelson	02/08
Michael Isham	02/09
Travis Fish	02/12
Brenda Morrell	02/14
Gina Corley	02/19
Barbara Remmelts	02/21
David Boan	02/22
Ms. Juliana Etland	02/23
Richard Britson	02/24
Gus Mullins	02/25
Ernestine Price	02/28



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



February

March

- 2nd: Ground Hog's Day 
- 4th:  Super Bowl of Caring
- 5th: P/S Alumni Registration/Wait List Registration
>Worship CM @ 5:30p (CR)
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 6th: PW CM 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 7th: The Compassionate Friends / Angels of the USA Music Event- for those who grieve the death of a child, grandchild or sibling @ 7:00p (FH)
- 7th-9th: P/S Parades
- 12th-13th: Mardi Gras—Church Ofc Holiday 
- 12th-16th: P/S Mardi Gras Holidays
- 14th: Valentine's Day 
+ >Ash Wednesday
>Wednesday Night Live
- 15th: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
>Resource Mtg-7:00p (CR)
- 18th: C/E CM after Worship
- 19th: President's Day 
>P/S Open Registration
>Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 20th: Grace Circle CM @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 21st: Wednesday Night Live
- 22nd-23rd: P/S Group Pictures (FH)
- 25th: Gumbo Luncheon following Worship (FH) - insert
- 28th: Wednesday Night Live

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

- 1st: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 2nd: World Day of Prayer
- 5th: Worship CM @ 5:30p (CR)
- 6th: PW Council Mtg @ 10:00 (Lbry)
- 7th: Wednesday Night Live
- 11th: Daylight Savings Time
>C/E CM after Worship
- 12th: P/S CM @ noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 13th: Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 14th: Wednesday Night Live
- 15th: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 16th: P/S Art & Fun Fest Set-Up
- 17th: St. Patrick's Day
>P/S Art & Fun Festival 9-3:00p
- 19th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Libry)
- 20th: Spring Begins
>Grace Circle CM @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 21st: Wednesday Night Live
- 24th: CE Easter Egg Hunt @ FH 10:00a
Cantata Dress Rehearsal/Lunch Set-up
- 25th: Palm Sunday Cantata & Luncheon
10:30 Worship Service Only
- 29th: Maundy Thursday 7:00p Service
- 29th-Apr 6th: P/S Easter Break
- 30th: Good Friday 9:00-2:00p Prayer & Meditation
- 31st: P/S Current Student/Sibling Registration

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

John Calvin Presbyterian Church



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