

CALVIN COMMENTARY



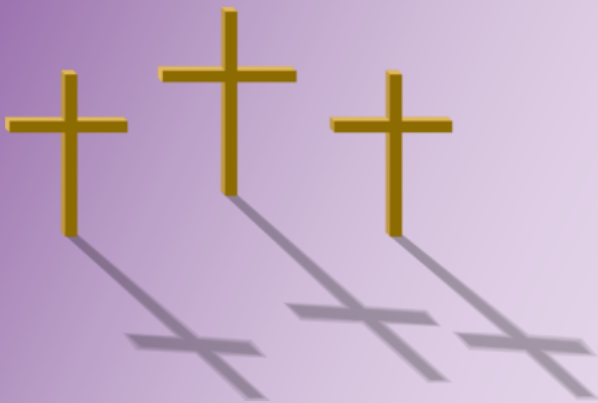
JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2017

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METAIRIE, LA 70006
504.888.1375
www.johncalvinchurch.org

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Banner Artist: Tony Hill

From



The Study Window

From the Study Window

Dr. Shelly Rambo, an associate professor of theology at Boston University who works in the discipline of trauma studies, suggests that Christians need to pay more attention to Holy Saturday. Believing in the promise of the resurrection doesn't eliminate suffering - and in witnessing this suffering, she suggests that we are about the work of redemption. Theologians have always wrestled with questions about suffering: Why do we suffer? Where is God in the suffering? Does God allow suffering? Does God will suffering? New research into trauma "pushes theologians and others to the extreme. What's different in the study of trauma is the way it exposes the extreme vulnerability of human beings in relationship to larger historical forces".

Trauma study is not a single field. It is multiple fields coming together to say, "How do we understand what seems to be the extreme and overwhelming effect of violence and suffering in our day?" The study of trauma largely emerged at the end of the 19th century - you could say it all began with Sigmund Freud. He was trying to make sense of what he was seeing in the midst of World War I, when he was seeing veterans return from war. The study of war continued with World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. A lot of what we know about trauma is from studying veterans.

Post-Holocaust studies were also instrumental in the study of trauma. How do we think about an overwhelming, historical event of suffering and its effects that can't be explained or narrated in a straight forward way? This moved trauma off the psychoanalytic couch, as it became interesting to historians, neurobiologists and philosophers, who began to explore things like the trauma of slavery and how it is experienced, the fact that trauma doesn't really end, but flows across generations into other events in life.

As the church, we need to think about suffering, not as something abstract, but as a phenomenon around us that needs to be addressed. Dr. Rambo suggests that for many who are living beyond trauma, the resurrection is often heard as a rush to get over it, to recover, or as pressure to live into resurrection; when in fact, the reality of their trauma is still very present. There's a sense that, because it's a part of the narrative of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, there may be extreme suffering, but we have the Good News in the end. As a result we minimize the suffering of people in the church.

Dr. Rambo points to the work of Walter Brueggemann, who suggests that we don't really pause and reflect on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter, because we already know the end of the story. Dr. Rambo suggests the moment of Holy Saturday is really important to understanding trauma and resurrection. It's the moment in which you're living beyond a death, a kind of metaphorical death, but can't see life clearly ahead. Theologically, it is when Jesus descended into hell, and that is exactly what people who experience trauma speak of, a sense of survival, but not living anew.

Dr. Rambo points to the story of Thomas, as one that indicates the importance of the wounds that trauma leaves in our lives. The resurrected Christ shows Thomas the wounds, and he believes. She suggests that we don't take the wounds as seriously as we should, in terms of the way in which new life is shaped by the suffering people experience. It's certainly not the only thing there, but the wounds, for many people, constitute part of how they understand their new life. She suggests that all of this means, that much of the work of the Christian community is to witness the wounds, and to help people incorporate them into their new life.

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By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master

Sunday, June 18th, I will celebrate eleven years at John Calvin Presbyterian Church as organist. I missed the fire and the flood. But many GOOD things mark my years with y'all. It began with the rebuilding of the choir loft to improve its acoustical properties, the installation of the expanded sound system, the addition of the stained glass windows, and the Zimbelstern (high sounding bells that augment the full organ sound).

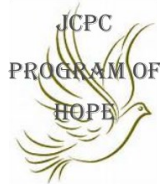
It also marks 20 concert programs of "high" sacred music. High praise for the soloists and choir for outstanding dedicated work. And incidentally supporting me in achieving two music degrees and becoming an elder along the way.

What's next? My favorite prayer request is for another bass. But more singers in all sections would be welcome. AND a memorial set of chimes (please contact me).

Remember ***SOLI DEO GLORIA*** is our motto, translated "Alone to God be the Glory." Join us!

William (Bill) R. Memmott

PROGRAM OF HOPE



MARCH RESULTS



We would like to recognize the many volunteers who have supported POH with their donations and with their hands-on-participation. Your special offering in March will fund the program for March and for the remainder of the year. Thank you.

In March, our volunteers prepared 110 sandwiches each Tuesday, and on Wednesday's greeted and served our homeless community at First Presbyterian Church. We should also thank those from other Presbyterian churches who serve weekly at FPC to provide ongoing support for other basic services. It should also be noted that, recently,

young Master of Social Work interns from Tulane Univ. have been regularly present on Wednesdays, providing counseling. Their presence has been very positive and well received.



Our March Volunteers: ***Barbara Taylor, Barbara McHan, George McLain, Henry Wagner, Lorraine Hicks and Trey, Paula, Dillon Hicks, Ann Trapani, Sandy Cranfill, Carol Foramen, Jananne Lankard, Barbara Remmelts, Sharon Fortin, Amy Cardinale (and father), Barbara Eagan, Carolyn Calvin, Sue Crawford, Kelly Zea, Barbara Eagan, Neil Wiederspahn and Richard Britson.***



More in August!



UNITY BUILD!

*Have you ever wanted to help out on a Habitat for Humanity project?
Always wanted to, but know you can't handle the physical demands?*

The Session of John Calvin Presbyterian Church has agreed to join in on a project called "Unity Build" to build a house for a hardworking New Orleans family. Habitat for Humanity will organize everything, we just need to show up and help out!



Our UNITY BUILD project will take place in October 2017!

We will need our congregation to:

- Send a few people to help build for a few of the dates,
- Make and handout lunch and snacks on a few dates,
- Support the project with our share of the funds needed, and
- Engage with other helpers to learn about their faith traditions and to share our Presbyterian story.

Sound like it might be fun? Stay tuned to learn more about when and how you can help be involved with building a house for and with a New Orleans family.

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

& OUTREACH



WHEN: Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd

WHERE: Items will be accepted starting May 24th

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

- We need your help before the sale with Donations, Setting up tables, sorting items and pricing.
- We need your help the day of the sale with selling, security, cashiers, straightening up, re-sorting, packing up and clean-up.

Proceeds will be split 50/50 between Youth Group activities and Outreach.

PLEASE CONTACT: Julie Hebert or Sharon Fortin
(504-888-1375)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader



THE YOUTH CORNER

He Is Risen, the children were in great spirits Easter Sunday. They have finished painting their crosses during Sunday School. They have learned great lessons over the past few weeks and have done some fun activities also.



April 8th we had a successful Easter Egg hunt with many children from the playschool and church in attendance. I was very proud of our older youth volunteering to help with this event. Thank you to all who volunteered their time, boiled eggs and made cupcakes. The children loved participating in all the activities. Special thanks to Cynthia Palmisano who helped organize the craft activities.





Youth group (Children 9 and up) and Outreach will join together to volunteer at Second Harvest

May 6, 8-11

We will meet at Second Harvest Food Bank

700 Edwards Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70123

Please RSVP by April 20th: Julie.hebert@johncalvinchurch.org

504.888.1375

UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS



BASEBALL NIGHT



***Fireworks *Super Hero night**

***Our very own Connor Boudreaux throws the first pitch**

Friday, May 19th

7:00pm

At Zephyrs Field

6000 Airline Dr.

Join your friends and fellow church members for an evening of fun at the Baby Cakes vs Las Vegas 51s

Tickets \$8.00 each

Please RSVP by May 12th

Julie.hebert@johncalvinchurch.org

504-888-1375

**NEW ORLEANS
BABY CAKES™**

Snippets

From Presbyterian Women

2017 BIRTHDAY OFFERING

of Presbyterian Women

May 14, 2017



GOD PROVIDES

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. It was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10TH anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). Since that time, it has become an annual tradition and has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of others has not. We continue to need broad, consistent support from Presbyterian women and others in order to continue funding mission projects like the ones for 2017.

The 2017 Mission projects are:

The Family Justice Center in South Carolina

The family Justice Center is a Safe Haven for Victims of Domestic Violence.

Navajo Water Project in New Mexico

The Navajo Water project will eventually provide water systems to 205 families at the Smith Lake Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This Birthday Offering grant will provide a running water system for 40 families that do not have access to running water in their homes.

First Hand Aid in Cuba:

First Hand Ad Rural Clinic Development Initiative exists to diminish the suffering of the most marginalized Cuban citizens by providing them hope, dignity and the basic necessities of life and health. The Rural Clinic Development Initiative is designed to establish six medical clinics in partnership with, and located at, Presbyterian Churches in rural Cuba.

Happy Mother's Day



*Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

Proverbs 31:25-26

TABLECLOTH DINNER

RESTAURANT CYPRESS

4426 Transcontinental Drive Metairie, LA 70006

May 4, 2017

Social 6:30pm - Dinner 7:00pm

\$32.00

Sign-up today in narthex

****MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DAVID GARLAND****



MENU

Appetizer: Baked Potato Soup
House Salad

Choice of Entree:

1. Grilled Salmon

Grilled filet of salmon with garlic braised spinach and citrus beurre blanc

2. Baby White Veal

**Baby white veal layered with Portobello crabmeat stuffing topped with sherry
beurre blanc and fresh asparagus**

3. Eggplant Cake

**Roasted eggplant topped with crawfish and crabmeat butter sauce, sautéed
Gulf shrimp and finished Hollandaise**

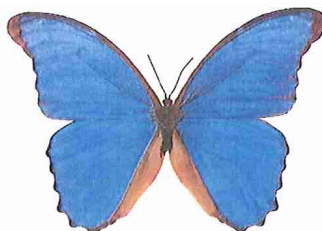
Dessert: White Chocolate Bread Pudding,
coffee and ice tea

Tax and Gratuity Included

Upcoming
Pilgrimage Weekend
May 18-21, 2017

The Wesley Center
Woodworth, LA
\$275

A Pilgrimage Is Three
Days Long But It Lasts A
Lifetime



Calling Christians to a
deliberate and joyous
living of their faith

Barbara Breedlove
302 Park Place Dr.
Alexandria, LA
Ph # 318.487.9911

or
Register Online:
www.lpilgrimage.org

Pilgrimage is a grace-filled and fully occupied three days. It is intended to encourage Christians, to help them grow in their lives of faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have any questions concerning the advisability of your attending at this time, please contact the registrar, your pastor or your sponsor.

Cost: The total cost for the weekend is \$275.00 which includes lodging and meals. You will not need additional money for the weekend.

The registration fee of **\$50.00** should be sent with the application. You will be asked to pay the remaining balance approximately 30 days before the weekend. Please make checks payable to: **Louisiana Presbyterian Pilgrimage.**



**What Is Presbyterian
Pilgrimage?**

Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a purposefully designed method for renewing the faith of individuals and, through the individuals, the environments in which they live and work.

Pilgrimage originated as the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement which began in Spain in the 1940's moved to America in the 1950's. In addition to the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Cursillo and Pilgrimage movements, there are similar expressions in the Methodist, Reformed, Episcopal, Lutheran and other Christian churches. These expressions are known by many names (Pilgrimage, Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Great Banquet, and others) and all are designed to provide a framework for the development and renewal of Christians in the local church and in the world.

**What Happens At
A Pilgrimage?**

The weekend includes conversation, song, laughter, fellowship, worship, communion, devotion, small group participation and reflection. A Pilgrimage lasts three days. It includes five talks per day that revolve around four major themes:

Liberation: unmasking obstacles to living a life of grace and being set free to live a new life in Christ

Christ: encountering Christ, the living Lord

Christian Life: giving strength and resilience to Christians who are then challenged to shape their world after the Kingdom of God

Perseverance: reinforcing the first three themes of Liberation, Christ and Christian Life to faithfully seek to transform their worlds for Christ.

Who Goes To A Pilgrimage?

Pilgrimage is a weekend designed for members of the Presbyterian Church or any other denomination committed to Christ and His church. It is not designed to convert from unbelief to belief. It is not advised for those in the middle of a major life crisis.

The goal of a Pilgrimage is to encourage Christians, to help them grow in their lives of faith, and to increase both their awareness of grace and their desire to serve Christ in His church and the world. A staff of lay people and clergy who have previously attended a Pilgrimage, Cursillo or similar event also attend the weekend.

A Pilgrimage is designed to enrich relationships, whether single or married. Married couples are encouraged to attend together. However, if this is not possible, the spouse who can attend is encouraged to do so.

**How Can I Attend
A Pilgrimage?**

Apply online at www.houstonpilgrimage.org or the application on the reverse side may be sent to the registrar. Anyone who has previously attended may serve as a sponsor and can provide you with more details. After applying, you will be notified prior to the Pilgrimage you are scheduled to attend.

How Much Does It Cost?

Costs for the weekend are primarily the charges for lodging, meals and use of the retreat center. Since the staff pay their own expenses and the materials used are donated, costs are kept to a minimum. In order that no one be prohibited because of expense, a scholarship may be available. If this would be helpful to you, please discuss a scholarship with the registrar.

What Will Be Expected of Me?

At Pilgrimage you will have an opportunity to be free from the distractions of the world, and to reflect on your own faith and relationship with God. Participants are not asked or expected to give speeches, memorize material or do anything that will make them uncomfortable.

Pilgrimage is an alcohol-free weekend and we ask that you honor the spirit and intent of the weekend by refraining from the use of cell phones and computers.

**What Happens
After A Pilgrimage?**

The weekend is only the beginning. What you learn and share during the weekend is intended to be taken and put into practice in your local congregations and communities. You will be supported by many others who have attended a Pilgrimage. You will have the opportunity to meet weekly in small groups to reinforce one another and to share the Christian life. Larger groups meet several times a year to share the joy and fellowship of our faith.

The objective of a Pilgrimage is to inspire, challenge, and equip each participant for Christian action in their church, home, place of work and community.

In Summary

Seek God's guidance in making your decision. Many of those who have attended wondered why they should go. Now that they have attended, they want to share this wonderful gift from God with you. The impact of a Pilgrimage can be measured by the large number of participants who want to return and serve on a staff at a subsequent weekend. Consider attending a weekend that will truly enrich your faith and life.



May

Kathryn (Kit) Melchert	05/02
Ashley Marler	05/05
Dianne Boan	05/06
David Russo	05/12
George Cowand	05/14
Melvyn Fourmaux	05/17
Laura Thomas	05/20
Don Melchert	05/29

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!










EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



May

June

- 1st: P/S Teacher Appreciation Week
>Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 2nd: PW Council Mtg 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 3rd: P/S Big Red Barn Farm Tour
- 4th:  National Day of Prayer
>PW Fun & Games 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 6th: 2nd Harvest 8:00-11:00am 
- 7th: C/E CM after Worship
>YG Confirmation Class during SS (CR)
- 8th: P/S CM @ noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 9th: Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 14th: **MOTHER'S DAY** 
>C/E:  Youth Service
- 15th: P/S TK Graduation 
>Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 16th: Grace Circle CM @ 9:30 (Lbry)
>P/S Last Day T/TH 
- 17th: P/S Last Day
>P/S Teachers' Luncheon
- 18th: PW Fun & Games 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 19th: C/E: YG  Baby Cakes Night 7p @ Zephers
- 21st: C/E: Teacher's Appreciation @ Worship
>Summer BBQ/Kids Funday (FH)
- 22nd: P/S Teacher's Work Week
- 24th-6/1: CE/Outreach Garage Sale/Bring Items(FH) 
- 28th: Casual Sundays (Ends 8/27)
- 29th: Church Office Closed-Memorial Day 

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)
>Last day to bring items for Garage Sale 
- 2nd-3rd: CE/Outreach Garage Sale (FH)
- 6th: PW Council Mtg 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 11th: C/E CM after Worship
- 12th-23rd: P/S Summer Camp
>P/S CM—noon
>Outreach CM @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 13th: Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 15th: PW Fun & Games 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 19th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 20th: Grace Circle CM @ 9:30 (Lbry)

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”