

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2016

4201 TRANSCONTINENTAL DRIVE
METAIRIE, LA 70006
504.888.1375
www.johncalvinchurch.org

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THERE IS
Always
SOMETHING TO BE
Thankful FOR



**“AND WHATEVER YOU DO, IN WORD OR
DEED, DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF
THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO
GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.**

COLOSSIANS 3:17

From



The Study Window

A Matter of the Heart

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Luke 12:34

Money and our attitude toward possessions are, at root, a spiritual issue. The ways we use money reveal our ultimate values and allegiances. Jesus put it very succinctly, you can't serve both God and money. In short, our faith needs to shape and reshape what psychologists sometimes call “our world view”. Our world view is a set of fundamental beliefs that determine our values, actions, and decisions. Our world view determines everything from our generosity to our sexual morals, and political persuasions.

Mike Slaughter, in his book **Money Matters**, points out that the most prevalent world view among church attendees is soft secular. People with a soft secular world view believe in God, but they place their trust in and draw their values from secular culture. They profess faith in Christ, but trust their abilities, financial resources, and material possessions to provide meaning and security rather than trusting God's promise to provide. It is difficult for soft secular people to make significant time or financial commitments to the church. They believe in God, but God is not their first priority. They live comfortably in two spheres, the sacred and the secular, but when pressed for time their default almost always goes to the secular. They bring Jesus into their world view instead of being converted into His.

Many, especially in my generation, have been taught to believe you can have it all. We are a generation of conspicuous consumption. We were the hippies of the sixties and seventies and the yuppies of the eighties. In an age of diminishing resources, we drove massive SUV's and trucks that were designed for the rigors of mountain terrain even though we never went off road. We've bought things we couldn't afford and created debt encumbered lifestyles. In the process, we've raised kids who are focused on individual experience who think it's true if it works for me.

Jesus addresses such world views in the story of a wealthy entrepreneur who seeks meaning from money. A rich man had a fertile farm that produces fine crops. He said to himself, “what shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.” Then he said, “this is what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and there I will store my surplus grain and I'll say to myself you have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and be merry.” (Luke 12:16-19)

You know what happened next. The man turned around and died. He missed life which is what happens when we focus on money. Life is found in our ability to make a lasting contribution to the redemptive work of God in the world. The only thing that lives beyond us is what we do for others in Jesus' name. True abundance is found in the freedom that comes from contributing to the well-being of another human being. Jesus put it this way, “it is more blessed to give than to receive”. Giving is the ultimate expression of love for God and the means through which we discover meaning and purpose. We are never closer to God than when we are serving the needs of people.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Harry Brown

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By: William R. Memmott

MUSIC CORNER

"Because you don't ask!" So I ask: if you are a "lost" choir singer, please join (or rejoin) the JCPC Chancel Choir. Don't think you are not missed. Yes, we need you -- now! Is that pushy enough?

After a very successful Gathering of Choirs appearance (see <https://www.facebook.com/julie.etland/videos/1279059618791773/>), we now settle into preparing for the Christmas Concert -- December 11 -- the Christmas section from Handel's "Messiah." Such beautiful music from the master of choral writing. And with strings from the LPO, we will lift your hearts in joyful praise. Join us!

And on the road to concertizing, stop off for the Thanksgiving/Hanging of the Greens celebration (pizza, decorations, Chrismons, singing, the choir). Sunday afternoon, November 20 at 5:00 p.m.

And all is...

SOLI DEO GLORIA

It's that time again!



Time for the

White Elephant Sale!

Re-Gifting Sale!

New-to-You Sale!

We need your goodies to sell!!

Please bring your gift-able items and baked goods to the Fellowship Hall starting

Sunday, November 12

On The Stage!

What do we need?

- Items suitable for a gift that you would like to donate!
- Baked Goods to sell!

The sale is

Saturday, November 19th

8 am to 1 pm

Remember: ALL Proceeds from this sale go to Program of Hope to purchase overnight vouchers or for bus tokens for the homeless.

Thanksgiving Baskets

The Presbyterian Women of John Calvin Presbyterian Church will again be filling Thanksgiving food baskets for the **Second Harvest Food Bank** to deliver to families in need. This project has been very successful in the past thanks to the participation of our Playschool families. We are asking for donation of any of the following non-perishable items:

Canned Sweet Potatoes – Corn – Green Beans or Peas

Canned Fruit

Staples such as Flour and Sugar

Pumpkin Pie Filling

Cornbread Mix

Evaporated or Condensed Milk

Canned Cranberry Sauce

Coffee – Tea – Cocoa Mix – Powdered Drink Mix

and/or

Cash Donations will help provide Turkeys and Hams

Collection will begin on Sunday, October 30th and will conclude on Tuesday, November 15th. Each classroom will have a basket at the door for these items.

PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!



JOIN THE FUN!

WHITE TABLECLOTH DINNER



CAFÉ EAST

4628 RYE STREET, METAIRIE, LA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2016

6:30 PM SOCIAL

7:00 PM DINNER

BUFFET STYLE: \$ 27.00 PER PERSON

TAX AND GRATUITY INCLUDED

*** PLEASE SIGN-UP IN NARTHEX AND MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SANDY CRANFILL**
(PAYMENT IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE EVENT, TO GUARANTEE SEATING)

BUFFET MENU INCLUDES:

CRAB RANGOON
GENERAL TSO'S CHICKEN
EGGPLANT
CASHEW CHICKEN
BROCCOLI BEEF
SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN
SHRIMP WITH BROCCOLI
FRIED RICE
WHITE RICE
SOFT DRINKS / TEA / WATER



Snippets

From Presbyterian Women

With the holidays approaching, Presbyterian women are again sponsoring the collection of funds and food for Thanksgiving baskets. A list of suggested items can be found on the next page of this commentary and in the weekly bulletin. Monetary gifts are also quite useful, for the purchase of meat. Collection boxes will be placed in the narthex and Playschool rooms.

Salvation Army Christmas Angels will soon be available for adoption. A tree will be placed in the narthex. Individuals or families may then “adopt” an angel, purchasing gifts for the child to receive.

The women’s circles will next be looking at who Jesus is through the eyes of Luke. Lydia Circle will meet at 7:00 PM on Nov. 8th. Grace Circle will meet at 9:30 AM on Nov. 15th.

November “Game Days” will be held on Thursday, the 3rd and 17th, from 10-noon. Join us, in the library, for fun and fellowship. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend!

50 years ago... did you know?

Fifty years ago, did anyone envision what a glorious celebration we would have to celebrate 50 years of John Calvin Presbyterian Church? Wasn't it amazing?



The committee was comprised of Emily Garland, Margaret Corcoran, Evelyn Tobey, Connie Casey, and myself, Sharon Fortin, with Rev. Harry Brown assisting. What a great group! Everyone jumped in to help as their time and talents would allow, and each articulated a vision that helped create the wonderful celebration.

But, though the committee spent 10 months in planning and execution, a slew of church members jumped up to help. Each of the Session's Committee's had a part: Worship; Christian Education; Outreach-Congregational Life; Playschool, and especially the Facilities Committee! Two weeks prior to the celebration weekend, we had a workday to clean in the sanctuary and add plantings outside. Thirty people came!!! Everything nook and cranny got cleaned. (The children had fun sliding under the pews to clean out any cobwebs!) We planted some flowers but all of the weeding, and cleaning up of twigs, damaged leaves, and branches made a huge difference!

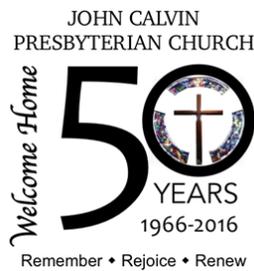
The weekend began with a wonderful Saturday evening celebration at Dave and Emily's Garland's. All of the former members traveling from out of town were invited to a "Fun, Food, & Friend Get Together". The stories flew about stirring memories and creating shouts of laughter. It was a good thing we had nametags; people change a bit over the years!

Finally came the day of the celebration, starting with a glorious Worship Service. Did anyone know that we could fit that many people in the pews? What a joy to hear Rev. Malsbury again, reminding us of our beginnings, then to have Rev. Brown follow with a vision of the future – and all that after a sermon-length introduction by Rev. Sutto from Presbytery. The message of vision and hope brought joy to the heart. And the music! Glorious! A brass quartet along with our own saxophone player and former member violinist, with 8 former choir members added to our own wonderful choir. It was a service that will never be forgotten.

We called for photos throughout the year and many folks were able to send us a bunch. What did we do with them? Emily Garland researched the timeline of events of John Calvin Presbyterian Church, so we created a big 22-foot timeline on the wall in the narthex, and added pictures! There was a slideshow of the photos running in the Sanctuary, and a video of Rev. Bob and Jane Malsbury, and Rev. Harry and Laurell Brown running in the narthex entry. We made posters of every topic you could name, and put them on the walls in the narthex, covered with the photos!

Lastly, the luncheon; it was another great idea from the committee members. We had a beautiful venue at Chateau Country Club. Over 200 people met to talk and visit and enjoy one another over an excellent luncheon. Many of the posters were brought from the church where folks had time to look them over and find themselves and their families.

Wasn't it wonderful? Three charter members in attendance, both pastors, over 70 former members, 8 former choir members. People came from California, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas. Amazing. Thank you John Calvin Presbyterian Church for 50 years of God's work.



THANK YOU!

What a glorious 50th anniversary celebration it was, wasn't it?

The day of the celebration and all the following week the committee has received multiple thanks for all of their work. It was a great committee, everyone working together and doing their part. But as hard and as well as they worked, there are a slew of others who contributed as well.

You may not have realized it, but the Session Committee's all helped out as they could:

- The Worship Committee let us mess up the schedule for the day and rose to the challenge of supporting our changes: running the slideshow; bringing in the former choir members; helping out to keep everything running smoothly before and during the service.
- The Christian Education Committee brought several of the youth and children to help out at the workday, and then again the day before the celebration, to pick up trash around the church.
- The Outreach-Congregational Life Committee put up all of the poster!
- The Playschool Committee donated some wonderful goodies for the get together on Saturday evening.
- And the Facilities Committee!! They responded to our every need all year long to fix up the church and get it ready for our visitors.

We had that wonderful workday 2 weeks before the celebration with 30 people showing up to help make everything beautiful inside and out!

A great bunch of people brought appetizers to the Saturday evening activity, which turned out to be a tremendous success, especially for the people traveling from out of town.

Finally, multiple members helped out on Sunday, greeting, making out nametags, refilling the coffee, helping folks find their way around, taking photographs, dealing with the sanctuary flowers, locking up the church after worship. Special thanks to Mike Fortin who had to miss the service to take everything over to Chateau and have it ready when all of you arrived.

Thank you to all of you for your part in the wonderful celebration. It will be remembered with joy for many, many years.

Playschool News



We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. We are wrapping up Halloween-themed activities and are looking forward to some cooler weather for our outside time.

A COUPLE IMPORTANT PLAYSCHOOL DATES TO NOTE:

NOV. 1- NO SCHOOL

NOV. 9- CHUCK E. CHEESE FUNDRAISER

NOV. 16- PK 4 POW-WOW

NOV. 21-25- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS



Birthdays

Prince, Ann	11/2	Hicks, Lorraine	11/4
Kirk, Sharon	11/5	Laporte Jr, John	11/6
Mundell, Bradley	11/7	McLean, George	11/12
Brown, Rev. Harry	11/13	Bush, Robin	11/15
Russo, Caroline	11/16	Moore, Ardis	11/17
Haw, Buddy	11/18	McHan, Lance	11/20
Palmisano, Cynthia	11/24	Davis, Nancy	11/26

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



November

December

- 1st: P/S Holiday – All Saints Day
PW Council CM @ 10:00 (Lbry)
- 3rd: PW Fun & Games 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 6th: Daylight Savings X Ends 
- 7th: Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 8th: **Presidential Election Day 2016** 
- 9th: P/S Picture Retakes
\$-P/S Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser
- 10th: White Tablecloth Dinner - Café East
- 11th: Veterans Day 
- 13th: C/E Mtg after Worship
- 14th: P/S CM @ noon
- 15th: Grace Circle CM @ 9:30 (Lbry)
Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 16th: P/S Pow-Wow
- 17th: PW Fun & Games 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 18th: White Elephant Sale Set-up @ 1:00p
- 19th: White Elephant Sale 8:00–1:00p 
- 20th: * **Hanging of the Greens** @ 5:00p 
- 21st: P/S Holiday Week for **Thanksgiving**
Confirmation Class meets Session @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 24th **Happy Thanksgiving** 
- 24th&25th: Church Ofc Closed—**Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 27th: 1st Sunday of Advent 

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)
- 4th: Confirmation @10:30 Service
PW “Cookie Swap” 3:00-5:00p (Lbry)
- 5th: Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
\$-P/S Atomic Burger Fundraiser
- 6th: PW Council CM @ 10:00 (Lbry)
- 7th: P/S Practice: “Angel/Angel”
- 9th: P/S Christmas Performance in Sanc.
P/S Movie Night
- 10th: Choir Dress Rehearsal w/ Orchestra @ 10:00
- 11th: **10:30 Service only—Christmas Concert** 
Choir’s Luncheon
C/E CM after Worship
- 12th: P/S CM @ noon
Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 13th: P/S “Angel/Angel in Sanctuary
Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 15th: PW Fun & Games 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 16th: P/S Last Day
- 19th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 20th: Grace Circle Mtg @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 24th: **Christmas Eve Services:**
Family @ **5:00p** / Traditional @ **7:00p**
- 25th: **Christmas Day Service—10:30 only** 
- 26th&27th: Church Ofc Closed—New Year’s Holiday
- 28th: NO Choir Practice
- 30th: Church Ofc Closed—New Year’s Holiday
- 31st: New Years Eve **2017**

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”