

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2017

4201 TRANSCONTINENTAL DRIVE
METAIRIE, LA 70006



"Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind..."

Psalm 107:8

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From



The Study Window

Defying Gravity

Stewardship '18

From the Study Window

When we talk about stewardship sometimes it seems like God or the Church are after our money. Many of the stories in scripture particularly the stories of Joseph and the Good Samaritan make it clear that God wants something much more valuable, God wants us to be stewards who give ourselves completely to the work of the kingdom. The key to stewardship is to offer our lives to God with joy so that we can mature and be transformed over time. Financial gravity that pulls at all of our lives makes it seem like it is impossible to be generous and at the same time experience joy in living.

Tom Berlin, who developed the Defying Gravity stewardship campaign, uses the writings of Francis De Sales, a sixteenth century Catholic Priest to explain growth in grace and generosity. He points out that when grace first adorns our souls, we are like an ostrich. Ostriches can run, but they can't fly. When we experience the grace of God but don't have the devotion to respond by giving ourselves to God we can't fly and we end up simply asking for things from God.

The second stage of spiritual development occurs when a person begins to respond to God's grace through occasional acts of generosity. At this stage we are like chickens, we can fly but only in a very limited way. We can break free of gravity for only a short time before we go back to the ways of consumerism. As a result, our lives are spent focusing on earth rather than on God and God's grace.

De Sales suggests that devotion to God is the basis for and the key to generosity and joy in the Christian life. He suggests that people who give themselves to God, who put their lives in God's hands, learn to fly like the birds of the air. They take flight as naturally as eagles and soar to the heights of God's grace and love. The strength and joy in their lives comes from serving god with all they have and all their time talent and resources. Such people are generous because they are deeply grateful to god for the grace that sustains them. Deep gratitude to God lifts our focus to god and begins to enable us to see and respond to the situations and people around us as god does.

One of the main reasons people fail to move from ostrich to eagle is the increased devotion involved feels like sacrifice. When we look at things from the perspective of financial gravity, sacrifice is necessary. We are invited to give up some of our financial hopes and dreams, that we might generously help and serve others. The parable of the Good Samaritan makes clear what we are invited to do, so that we might soar as eagles. The man is beaten, robbed and left on the side of the road. The Priest and the Levite pass by without helping the man. Then the Samaritan comes along, the last person that Jesus' audience would have expected to be the good guy. The Samaritan not only stops to check the man he bandages his wounds, he puts him on his own beast and takes him to the inn where he pays for the man's care and tells the innkeeper, if you spend more I will repay you. Jesus then says to his audience go and do likewise. When we accept Christ's invitation to generosity, and make the sacrifice involved, we find that our appreciation of God's love and grace more than compensates for any loss we experience.

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

Choir



By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master



FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

Critical Mass is defined as "an amount needed to achieve a certain result." When I look at the Choir Room Storage Slots, I see that we are approaching a choir membership that is close to missing Critical Mass. With the accumulation of losses, due to deaths or moving away (or some other reason), we are down in numbers. I kid about needing another bass. But it is true: two basses barely covers the part.

It is a cliché: "Don't complain about it, offer a solution." So, here goes:

1. If you are a singer - we urge you to join.
2. If you know someone who is a singer - invite them to join.
3. Pray about it - "You don't have, because you don't ask."
4. Marry a singer (don't laugh!).
5. Meet new friends.
6. Birthday cake once a month, and cough drops are available.
7. Sing with an orchestra twice a year.
8. Sing special music that lifts up worship.

Common excuses:

1. I don't read music. We'll teach you.
2. It means every Wednesday night and Sunday morning. Yes, it is a serious commitment, but our absentee policy is very liberal.
3. I've never sung in a choir before. Think of it this way: if you sit in the congregation and sing the hymns, you're a good choir candidate.
4. (Fill in the blank).

So, I pray that you respond to the Critical Mass Choir Membership Campaign. You will be blessed and you will be a blessing.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

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. 13 = PK 4 POW-WOW

NOV. 20 -24= THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

NOV. 29 = ATOMIC BURGER FUNDRAISER (12-9 PM)

PLEASE DINE IN, TAKE OUT, OR DRIVE-THRU ATOMIC BURGER ON NOVEMBER 29! JUST MENTION JOHN CALVIN WHEN YOU ORDER AND OUR PLAYSCHOOL WILL RECEIVE 20% OF YOUR PURCHASE. THEY HAVE DELICIOUS BURGERS, HOT DOGS, FRIES, AND THE BEST MILKSHAKES AROUND TOWN!

**NOVEMBER 29, 2017
12-9 PM
3934 VETERANS BLVD.**

**SAY JOHN CALVIN
WHEN YOU ORDER!!!**





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader

THE YOUTH CORNER



October 7th the youth prepared and served lunch for the volunteers at the Unity Build construction site. The children arrived to the fellowship hall at 9:00am. They prepared club sandwiches, chips, and a brownie for the group. I had three of the youth join me in bringing the lunch over to the construction site for the workers. This was a great experience for the kids to be able to see the construction on the house and the new owner.



Big Church Night Out



October 27th I had two youth from our church and three youth from other churches attend the Big Church Night Out concert. The kids loved listening and worshipping through all different kinds of music. This concert sent a great message to all that attended. It was a lot of fun and the Newsboys were our favorite.



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS

November Youth Activities!!!

John Calvin Presbyterian Youth Group

(Children 9 and up)

and Outreach

will join together to volunteer at Second Harvest

November 4, 8-11

We will meet at Second Harvest Food Bank

700 Edwards Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70123

504-888-1375

Closed toe shoes required!!!



&

Hanging
of the
Greens

SERVICE 5:00-6:30 (ALL AGES)

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 Church and 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

or...

Monetary donations will help provide Turkeys and Hams

(Make checks payable to John Calvin Church with “Thanksgiving Baskets” on memo line)

Collection began on Sunday, October 29th and will conclude on Monday, November 13th.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!



Snippets

From Presbyterian



Presbyterian Women will again be participating in the Salvation Army "Adopt an Angel" project. The "angels" are children who would have no Christmas gifts without community assistance. Our Angel Tree will be in the narthex starting Sunday, November 19. If you choose an angel, please sign the pad with your name next to the corresponding number of the angel, so we will know who has taken an angel.

The "wish list" and instructions are on the tag. The gifts **MUST** be returned to the church by December 6th. They may be placed in the narthex or the church office. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to share the "Spirit of Christmas" with those less fortunate.



We did it!

Unity Build builds a New House!!

Let's get started



Week 3



Week 4



Finished!!



Habitat for Humanity: Unity Build

We've spent the last 4 weeks building this beautiful little house with 12 other faith organizations! Can you believe we did it?

John Calvin Presbyterian Church can be proud of our congregation. We aren't the biggest church around, but when it comes to making a difference we know how to make it happen.

12 People from our Congregation helped with construction at least one day and several for 2 or more days! They did everything from hammering nails, painting, and laying flooring, to putting on hardware and attaching porch spindles. Our team members were all wise enough to avoid going up on the roof!

Thank you to: Dennis Price and Buddy Haw (6 days), Harry Brown, Linda Lowry, Kelly Trail and Lenny Nelson (2 days), Paula Palermo, Joe Palermo, Sandy Cranfill, Steve Barnes, Sharon Fortin and Bill Bottomley.

Our youth provided lunch on the day of the hurricane that didn't hit us! Thank you to: Julie Hebert, Greg Russo, and Jeremy Moore who led 6 of our youth to make and bring the lunch to the site. Thank you to: Claire Russo, Conner Boudreaux, Travis Fish, Eli Lagraize, Josh Bush, and Caleb Hebert.

The Outreach Committee provided lunch with the help of several church members. This was a hot lunch of red beans and rice with cornbread and salad. Even on a warm day a more substantial lunch was much appreciated by the workers. We even provided a vegetarian version and a "no onions" version to accommodate the workers.

Thank you to: Outreach Committee members – Suzanne Wooderson, Sue Crawford, Carolyn Calvin, Barbara Remmelts, and Jananne Lankard. Thank you to helpers from the congregation: Margaret Corcoran, Carol Fourmaux, and Barbara McHan!

Thank you to everyone who brought snacks!! We had plenty for the 4 times we signed up to bring snacks. The Playschool snack drive brought in 2 large boxes of snacks!! Hurray for the Playschool!

Several members helped with registration and snacks, which required getting to the site very early, setting up tables and the tent, and moving everything as the sun moved to keep the snacks and themselves from melting!

Thank you to: Sue Crawford, Carolyn Calvin, Suzanne Wooderson, Jananne Lankard, Barbara Egan, Barbara Remmelts, Lorraine Hicks, Barbara Taylor and Sharon Fortin.

Plus, though we pledged \$1500, YOU gave us \$2472 to donate to the project!

Thank you John Calvin Presbyterian Church for your support of

New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity: Unity Build!

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 by...

Friday, November 17 in the afternoon

What do we need?

Items suitable for a gift...that you would like to donate!

Baked Goods to sell!

The sale is

Saturday, November 18th

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.



Ann Prince	11/02	Robin Bush	11/15
Lorraine Hicks	11/04	Caroline Russo	11/16
Sharon Kirk	11/05	Ardis Moore	11/17
John Laporte Jr.	11/06	Buddy Haw	11/18
Bradley Mundell	11/07	Lance McHan	11/20
George McLean	11/12	Cynthia Palmisano	11/24
Rev. Harry Brown	11/13	Nancy Davis	11/26








EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



November

December

- 1st: ALL SAINTS DAY
>P/S—Holiday
- 2nd: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
> Tablecloth Dinner @ Copeland's Tower
- 4th: 2nd Harvest 8-11/11:30-2:30 (*Ages 10-up*)
- 5th: Daylight Savings Ends 
- 6th: Worship CM @ 5:30p (CR)
- 7th: PW Council Mtg @ 10a (Lbry)
- 8th: P/S Individual School Picture Retakes
>P/S Organ Presentation by WRM @ 9:30a
- 10th: Veteran's Day (Fed'l) 
- 12th: C/E CM after Worship
- 13th: P/S CM @ noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
>Thanksgiving Food Collection Ends
- 14th:: Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)
> Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 15th: P/S Pow-Wow (FH)
- 16th: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
>P/S Thanksgiving Feast
- 18th: White Elephant Sale 8:00—1:00p 
>Angel Tree 11/18-12/6
- 20th: P/S Holiday Week for **Thanksgiving**
>Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 21st: Grace Circle @ 9:30a (Lbry)
- 23rd: **Happy Thanksgiving Holiday** 
- 23rd-24th: Church Ofc Closed—**Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 26th: **Hanging of the Greens**—Add'l 5:00p service. 
- 29th: P/S Atomic Burger Fundraiser (12-9)

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

- 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)
- 10th: C/E CM after Worship
> PW Cookie Exch 3-5p (Lbry)
- 11th: P/S CM—noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 12th: Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 13th: P/S Angel!Angel! TK Christmas Party 
- 14th: P/S 3's Xmas Program
- 15th: P/S 3's Xmas Program
>Christmas Concert Set-up
- 16th: Christmas Concert Rehearsal 10-12)
- 17th: **NO 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE**
 >**Christmas Concert & Luncheon**
> *Yth Feed the Homeless @ Bridge House*
>Cust Celebration
- 18th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 19h: Grace Circle @ 9:30a (Lbry)
>P/S Christmas Break / Tchr Luncheon
- 21st: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 24th: Christmas Eve Srvcs 10:30a/5:00p/7:00p
- 25th: Merry Christmas 
- 25th-26th: Church Ofc Closed-Christmas Holiday

31st: New Year's Eve  *****

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John Calvin Presbyterian Church



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