

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2016

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Tony Hill, Banner Artist

From



The Study Window

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.” (Mark 12:41-43)

What is this story really about? Some of it is simply about giving. We can't ignore this fact or gloss it over. Jesus wanted us to recognize that our money is an extension of who we are and what we value in life. What we do with our resources is important. What we give is an expression of who we are. What we do with what we have left is also an expression of who we are. Jesus made it very clear, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

Jesus watches the people in the temple giving their offerings with understanding and discernment. He knows not only their monetary contributions, but also their hearts. The awesome thought that Jesus is watching each of us, with the same double discernment as we give our offerings week after week, is certainly humbling!

But Jesus was not a fund-raiser. This was not his mission in life. The story about the widow's gift at the temple treasury is surely about giving; but it is a message about much more. It is, I think, a story about adventure. The more time I spend reading and reflecting on the scriptures, the more I realize that Jesus is not simply calling us to give a percentage of our income, rather he is calling us to an adventurous journey of faith.

The amount of the gift is not as important as the cost to the giver. Jesus is talking about risks in giving and in living. He is calling for an almost recklessly adventurous spirit. We are to give more than we think we can and allow God to work through our giving to lead us and shape us so that we become the people we are intended to be.

C. S. Lewis said it well, “I do not believe one can settle the question of how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” In a grave yard beside a small country church the memory of a devoted soul who had spent herself recklessly and untiringly in the service of that small church is enshrined. A brief and touching epitaph reads: “She hath done what she couldn't.”, what a beautiful witness to a faithful life that risked all for God.

It is the spirit of adventurous living and giving that enables the church of Jesus Christ to turn dreams and visions into reality. As you receive your time and talent sheets and your pledge cards prayerfully, consider stepping up and doing what you think you can't. As we do, we will see God doing amazing things and we will find our lives fuller than we could have imagined.

In Christ's Service

Rev. Harry Brown

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By: William R. Memmott

Of course, everything this month focuses on our 50th Anniversary Celebration. In the Music Corner we will once again have a guest brass quartet as we did for the 40th in addition to our faithful tenor saxophone player, Michael Isham, with returning violinist, Lourdes Reeks, and Jan Cox on keyboard. This is in addition to Julie Etland on piano and almost a dozen returning singers to fill out the choir.

Some of the music will be reprised from the 40th: the hymns, the anthem "A Lord-built House" and the postlude "Now Thank We All Our God." The prelude will be Linda McKechnie's spectacular "Praise We the Lord" (quoting from Handel's "Water Music"). The second anthem will be my recent rendering of "How Great Thou Art."

What a weekend!

We are still inviting new singers from our congregation to join the "merry band." We have just begun work on the Christmas Concert (December 11) featuring Handel's Christmas Music from "Messiah." Other choral music includes a variety of works from both the Mosaic and Davidic Traditions. Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m.

In the words of **St. Augustine**: "He who sings prays twice."

Soli Deo Gloria



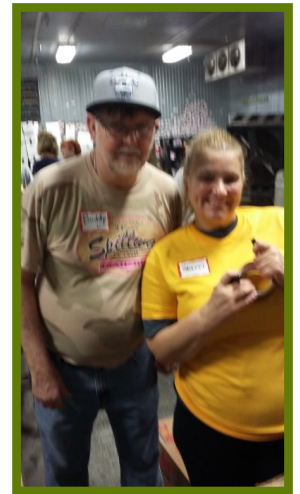
Hi, everyone...

It's that time again. We kick off with sandwich prep in the Fellowship Hall at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4th, while leaving from there (or from home, if more convenient) at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5th for First Presbyterian Church – followed by participation on the 3 succeeding pairs of Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Would you kindly check your calendars and provide your availability for the respective October dates during the month – as soon as possible/practical – as our first activity is less than two weeks hence.

Thanks so much!

Richard



SECOND HARVEST – A BLAST!!

It was a happy and smiling crew from John Calvin leaving Second Harvest's Elmwood Warehouse at about 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 17. John Calvin had partnered with a very friendly and pleasant group of Ochsner staff that morning to sort over 5000 pounds of much-needed food items. Both our adults and youth departed, raring to return soon.



The John Calvin group included: *Sheryl Wise, Laurie and Portia Robinson with Amanda, Dennis Price, Richard Britson, Amy Cardinale, Evelyn Toby, Julie and Ethan Etland, Joshua Bush, and Buddy Haw.*
Many Thanks to our volunteers!

It's that time again!

Here's the easiest Mission Project you can imagine...
one that nearly everyone can participate in!

Collecting Labels for Education!

The Presbyterian Women and Outreach Committee are collecting three labels types for Alice Birney Elementary School to be used for positive behavior recognition and to purchase gym supplies for the classrooms.



Box Tops for Education are found on many, many common products: General Mills Cereals; Ziploc Products; Progresso Soups; Betty Crocker items; Old El Paso items; Scott and Kleenex products; Land O'Lakes, Pillsbury, and Yoplait products; Nature Valley and Fiber One products; and Hefty products. Each label is worth 10 cents.

Campbell's Labels can be found on Campbell's soup and sauce cans; Pepperidge Farm products; Pace salsas and sauces; Swanson stocks and chicken cans; V8 products; and SpaghettiOs products. These are used for purchase sports items from a catalog.



Local Community Coffee labels are being collected as well. The UPC Proof of Purchase Seal is what counts for these. Any Community Coffee product has one. We are collecting the seal off of the cases of coffee we are purchasing for Sunday coffee! Each one is worth 10 cents!

There are collection envelopes on a bulletin board in the narthex. Bring what you collect and we will get them to Alice Birney. Alternatively, our Playschool can accept the Box Tops for Education to be used for playground equipment. Just take them to the Playschool office! This one is easy. Yes, you can participate in a Mission Project!



Snippets

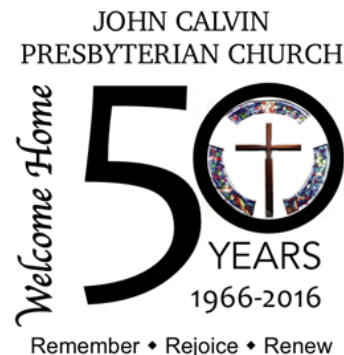
From Presbyterian Women

22 women attended September Circle meetings. We studied who Jesus was, through the eyes of Mark. In October, we will look at Jesus through the eyes of Matthew. Meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, October 11, at 7 pm and
Tuesday, October 18, at 9:30 am.

Game days will take place in the church library, each 1st and 3rd Thursdays, from 10 am to noon.

50 years ago... did you know?



Fifty years ago, when the first families formed the new John Calvin Presbyterian Church, they brought along their children. We know that the Playschool arose from the needs of these families, but what about at church? Quickly Sunday School classes were started and the youth began to gather!

In the 1970's the local high schools were segregated by gender. The girls went to Grace King High School and the boys to Bonnabel or East Jefferson High Schools. But where did they go to meet each other? One popular place was the Youth Group at John Calvin Presbyterian Church. It didn't matter what your faith tradition was, the place to be was JCPC. It started small, with a program at someone's house followed by fun and food. Often the gathering started when everyone went to a church league softball game, then shared pizza afterward. Bob Malsbury began a discussion group on Job for the mixed group, and it grew in strength and understanding.

1974 saw the group headed out on retreat to Montreat, while Camp Lacombe was the destination for one or two weekend retreats. Wasn't there a story about "streaking", or was that just the 70's? Summers found the young people performing plays, with costumes and all in the sanctuary, directed by none other than Jananne Lankard! Who's up for another one! This group was so close that they have gotten together for reunions occasionally through the years.

With the mixing of gender in the high schools in the 80's, the need for a place to meet was reduced, but the youth group, while not nearly as large, was still active. In the 90's the church hired a Director of Christian Education (DCE), Ann Ferguson. Her first day started with leading the youth on a mission trip to San Antonio! This group went to the Martha May House where they stayed, cooking and cleaning from themselves, and spending the day either with Habitat for Humanity, or the local soup kitchen. A day trip was made into Mexico. What a great experience!

The 90's group experienced overnights at the YMCA, and a retreat to Montreat, led by Linda Craven and Joe and Paula Palermo. Youth Sunday was an important occasion. Three memorable young speakers gave sermons through the years – Linda Craven's daughter, Michael Lowry (of current Weather Channel fame), and Scott Crawford, who experienced a calling to ministry. No mention of "streaking" with this group. In addition, Diane Parry led a wonderful Children's Choir.

In 1998, Sonia Lee became the DCE, staying for 8 years, through the aftermath of Katrina. She developed strong relationships with the young people, even coming back for a wedding and joining a post-Katrina work crew. After Katrina, the Sunday School class enrollment fell to just 2 children. The programs had to be restarted from scratch. But with 13 baptisms the year after Katrina, growth potential was clear!!

Today, there are 3-4 active youth, with the potential for 30 in the next 3 years as they go through high school (Remember those 13 baptisms? Just say in'). This year there are 10 in Confirmation Class from the current group known as the "Tweens". This summer several experienced a retreat to Mo Ranch in Texas. The beginning of the faith journey for our children and young people is a critical and ongoing mission. Is there anything more important than starting the kids out right?

This is the last article in this series on the changes in the life of John Calvin Presbyterian, over 50 years. We hope you've enjoyed them! Here's to 50 more years!



We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. We are off to a great start to the school year and the children are enjoying their new classrooms, teachers, and friends. Our youngest students have adjusted well and are trading in the tears for the smiles!

A couple important Playschool dates to note:

October 3-14: Charleston Wrap/ Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Be looking out for brochures with available products in the near future. New products will be offered this year and hopefully Christmas shopping can be made easier for you.

October 7: Flu Shots in Fellowship Hall from 11:45-12:30

Consent forms will be available in the playschool office and on the day of the event.

October 12: Cane's Night on Veterans by Lake Villa (12-9 pm)

October 20: Parent's Night at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

October 21: JC Trunk or Treat

Thank you in advance for your support of our fundraisers this year as we try some new and different things.



Birthday Celebrations!

Fish, Helen 10/01

Tobey, Evelyn 10/01

Wade, Elizabeth 10/06

Wooden, Helen 10/07

Favaloro, Guy 10/08

Isham, Brendan 10/09

Wise, Larry 10/09

Sundmaker, Earl 10/11

Wooderson, Suzanne 10/15

Bone, Lauren 10/17

Brown, Laurell 10/17

Isham, Regina 10/19

Cross, Harriet 10/22

Fuller, Louise 10/28

McHan, Barbara 10/29

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



October

- 3rd P/S CM @ noon
- 4th: PW CM @ 10:00 (Lbry)
Outreach POH, see article with dates & times
- 5th & 6th: P/S School Pictures
- 8th: 50th Choir Rehearsal @ 4:00p
- 9th: 50th Anniversary Celebration:
(*No Chapel Service, Sun. School or Conf. Classes*)
Continental Breakfast @ 9:00
Choir Rehearsal @ 9:30
Sunday Service @ 10:30
Chateau Country Club after 10:30 service
*** Reservations Are Required ***
- 10th: Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 11th: Lydia Circle Mtg @7:00p (Lbry)
Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 20th: PW Fun & Games meets from 10:00-noon (Lbry)
(*Will not meet on 1st Thurs due to 50th Anniv*)
- 17th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 18th: Grace Circle Mtg @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 20th: P/S Parent's Night @ 6:30p
- 21st: P/S Trunk or Treat @ 6:00p
- 30th: Stewardship Sunday
- 31st: **Halloween** 

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

November

- 1st: P/S Holiday — All Saints Day
PW Council Mtg @ 10:00 (Lbry)
- 5th: Daylight Savings X 
- 6th: Stewardship Sunday
-  8th: **Presidential Election Day 2016**
Lydia Circle Mtg @7:00p (Lbry)
Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 9th: P/S Picture Retakes
- 10th: PW Fun & Games meets from 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 13th: C/E Mtg after Worship
- 14th: P/S CM @ noon
Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 15th: Grace Circle Mtg @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 16th: P/S Pow-Wow
- 19th: White Elephant Sale
- 20th: * **Hanging of the Greens** @ 5:00p
- 21st: P/S Holiday Week for **Thanksgiving**
Confirmation Class Meets Session @
Session Mtg—7:00p (Lbry)
- 24th Happy Thanksgiving 
- 24th&25th: **Church Ofc Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 22th: Beginning of Fall

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John Calvin Presbyterian Church



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