

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2016

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*Welcoming Fall
at City Park
New Orleans*



And God said, Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,
(Genesis 1:14)

Unknown Artist: virtumpaintout.blogspot.com

From



The Study Window

Generosity

In his book, The Christian Wallet, Mike Slaughter points out that he was born into a middle class family in Ohio and that when compared to the majority of people in the world this means that he was born into great privilege. He is thankful for that but also deeply aware that it doesn't mean that God favors him personally. God is as concerned about the wellbeing of the widowed mother in Darfur, who is struggling to raise her children alone. He points out that rather than implying a favored status privilege, implies great responsibility.

As people of privilege, our responsibility to the poor, widowed, and orphaned is made plain throughout God's Word. In the 24th chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses pointedly reminds the people of Israel and us of our responsibility to the poor. Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy. Do not deprive the alien, or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of a widow as a pledge. When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, fatherless, and the widow. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow.

Clearly we are not meant to consume everything we produce. We were not created simply to be consumers; we are to be the producers of God's provision and blessings into the lives of others, especially those who struggle to provide for themselves. In Luke four, Jesus declares his mission statement to the world, the spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. If the gospel we demonstrate to the world does not serve the poor, then it is not the good news. Our privilege, the fortunate accident of where we were born, carries deep responsibility.

Too often we place more faith in the idols of our own making, our stuff and debt that accompanies it, than we do in God. We worship the created instead of the Creator. We may not admit it, but our calendars and bank statements make it clear that we do. God cannot increase what we refuse to release. Jesus explains it like this, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed; but if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24).

The Bible is filled with seemingly irrational people who were obedient to God when it made no sense by earthly measures. Noah built an ark when no water was in sight and no indication of an impending flood. Abraham left a comfortable financially secure home at God's request at the age of seventy-five to travel to lands completely unknown to him. Queen Esther risked her life by coming before the king of Persia unbidden to plead for her people. The prophet Hosea married a prostitute at God's direction.

We either believe that God will meet all our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ or we don't. We have to learn to "fix our eyes not on the things that are seen but on the things that are not seen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). Not only does God meet our needs when we release what is in our hands, but we become God's economic delivery system for serving the least and lost. As the living breathing body of Christ we are the hands, feet and wallet of God, and God uses us to accomplish His work in the world.

In Christ's Service

Rev. Harry Brown

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By: William R. Memmott

FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

There is still room in the Choir Loft and Orchestra Pit. We invite both singers and instrumentalists to join our Happy Band. Singers show up for Wednesday evening rehearsal at 7:15 p.m. Instrumentalists show up for Sunday morning rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. (Let me know you are coming so I can have scores ready for you.)

In addition to singing regularly at 10:30 a.m. Worship Services, the choir is scheduled for several special events:

October 9 - JCPC 50th Anniversary Celebration (with returning choir members)

October 20 - Joining other choirs to sing for The Gathering of Choirs at St. Clement of Rome

December 11 - Our annual Christmas Concert - "The Christmas Section" from Handel's "Messiah" with Orchestra (including harpsichord)

December 24 - Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols

Our style of music follows two scriptural models. The first is the tradition that derives from Moses' Tabernacle. This Mosaic Tradition encompasses the more formal style of music that we all grew up with: classical hymns, anthems, responses, preludes and postludes. The second is the tradition that derives from King David's "merry celebrations" (Psalm 150: "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord"). This Davidic Tradition encompasses the more free style of music that has become popular in the last few years: Praise and Worship ("singspiration") "choruses," film "scorish" instrumentals, jazz style music. For years the Davidic style was used in the early service (Saturdays), and the Mosaic style was featured in the second service. Later we BLENDED the two styles in a single worship event. Thanks to our projection capabilities the Davidic style mostly requires no printed music. For 50 years our church has built on the Mosaic tradition. It is only more recently that the Davidic style has come into play. As much as our Mosaic capabilities dominate our worship services, there is much yet to be introduced from the Davidic style. Come with expectation as we delve into Davidic styles.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL

John Calvin's Presbyterian women's council held its first meeting of the 2016-17 year, on August 2nd. The council is comprised of the following women: Sandy Cranfill, Julie Etland, Sharon Fortin, Carol Fourmaux, Emily Garland, Lorraine Hicks, Jananne Lankard, Barbara Remmelts, Evelyn Tobey and Ann Trapani.

We would like to report on the following projects we support:

School supplies for Alice Birney – Supplies were purchased to be distributed this school year. Due to the congregation's incredible generosity last fall, no additional funds were required for these purchases. The majority of the school supplies will be distributed in January when the need for replacements is greatest.

John Calvin offers two women's circles, for the purpose of Bible study, fellowship and Christian support. The literature to be used this year is called, "Who Is Jesus? What a difference a Lens Makes". The study uses scripture to explore how we can learn who Jesus is. Lydia Circle meets in the church library, at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Grace Circle meets in the church library, at 9:30 A.M. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Both circles will study the same material so participants can attend whichever is more convenient. Feel free to change your meeting choice monthly as your schedule changes.

Fun and Games!!! All adults are invited to meet in the church library to play board games and enjoy fellowship. We will meet twice a month, beginning on Sept. 8th and 22nd, from 10:00 AM to noon.

Save the date!!! The 1st "annual" Christmas cookie swap is planned for the afternoon of Dec. 4th. This event is open to everyone. Participants will bake 6 dozen cookies, from a single recipe. One dozen will be served to sample then each participant will take home a mixture of 5 dozen. Copies of each recipe should be made available.



Lydia Circle 2016-17 Grace Circle

Lydia Circle and Grace Circle are composed of Women of John Calvin Presbyterian Church. Lydia Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. in the church library on the second Tuesday of each month, with the first meeting scheduled on September 13. Grace Circle also meets in the church library, but on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m., with their first meeting scheduled on September 20th.

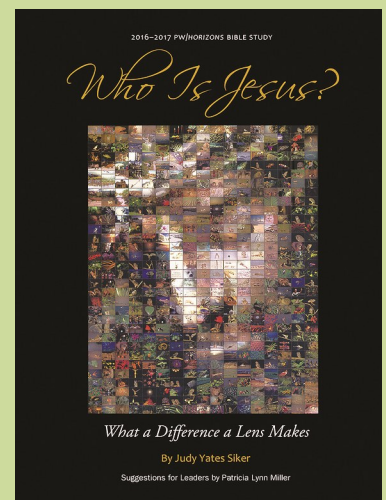
Carol Fourmaux is the Lydia Circle leader, and at each meeting there will be a hostess providing light snacks. Additionally, one of the members will have volunteered to be the moderator for that particular monthly lesson. Grace Circle, lead by Barbara Remmelts, follows the same meeting format as well.

Who is Jesus? is the topic of this year's study, and we will discuss the idea of the many lenses through which we see and discover Jesus' identity.

There are many resources to help the ladies prepare each lesson, and the fellowship and input in the study will be an enjoyable way towards committing ourselves:

- ♦ to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
 - ♦ to support the mission of the church worldwide,
 - ♦ to work for justice and peace,
 - ♦ and to build an inclusive / caring Presbyterian (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom,
- ...all of which is the Presbyterian Women's Purpose.

*Please come and join us in Lydia Circle
or Grace Circle*



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 labels is worth 10 cents.

Campbell's Labels can be found on Campbell's soup and sauce cans; Pepperage 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!

STAIR RESULTS / OPPORTUNITY

During the last school year, 228 students from 43 public elementary schools attended Start The Adventure in Reading program. As many as seven(7) members of John Calvin participated as tutors in the school year. Some program highlights:

- * Oral reading fluency test scores improved by 100%;
- * 100% of parents' end-of-year evaluations reported students' increased interest in reading; and,
- * 100% reported that their child enjoyed the relationship with their



Please consider becoming a tutor – it's easy! (Check out "stairnola.org".) No experience required. You may participate one or two afternoons per week – at our Fellowship Hall!

Kick-off for the current school year will begin in late September. A 2.5 hr. training class is available on numerous dates/locations all through September. Note that the curriculum is very user friendly. For further information, you may contact one of our current tutors: Linda Lowry, Lennie Nelson, Sue Crawford, Sandy Cranfill, Beverly Ross, or Richard Britson. **Thanks much!**

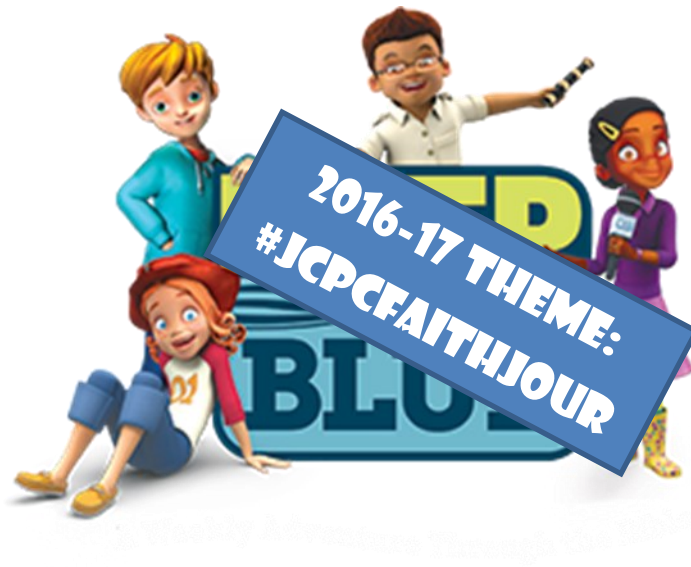


SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK NEWS

Recent update from Second Harvest (no-hunger.org) on its ongoing disaster response:

“So far, we have delivered more than 500,000 pounds of supplies across South Louisiana, helping more than 45,000 people, in 13 parishes. Thank you to everyone who has helped: The response is an ongoing collaboration with countless organizations, churches, businesses, individuals and member of local/state government. Please accept our deepest appreciation from the bottom of our hearts.”

John Calvin is scheduled to help sorting food at Harvest’s Elmwood warehouse on Saturday, September 17, 8-11 a.m. If you can help, please contact Richard Britson or Barbara McHan. Thanks to all who have already volunteered!



A Weekly Adventure through the Bible!

JCPC Sunday School will be using the Deep Blue curriculum this fall. It is based on the award winning Deep Blue Kids Bible. Deep Blue is the awe-inspiring resource for children which includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games-all combined into a living-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today! Join Asia, Edgar, Kat and a new character, through this years' Bible theme for 2016-17 #jpcpfaithjourneys.

Imagine if a child could hear a Bible lesson on Sunday morning and later that week at home could log onto a digital virtual world through a mobile device, where the lessons that were taught in Sunday school were reinforced and brought to life in 3D. Information will be shared with parents and children on how to access this app the first few weeks in Sunday School.

Kick-Off Sunday is planned for Sunday, September 11th at 9:00 AM. Make plans to bring your children and yourselves to Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall. There is a class for everyone – confirmation, 2 adult classes, children....Everyone will walk their “jpcpfaithjourney” every Sunday.

Check your mail, email, and John Calvin Presbyterian Church facebook page for more details.

50 years ago...

.... did you know?

It wasn't long after the new John Calvin Presbyterian Church was constituted and its first church building erected that an understanding of Christ mission and our church's role became important. The new building allowed for the creation of our premier Playschool, which brought in new families from across the area (see the July issue), but also allowed for accommodation of Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) members in the local neighborhood, starting a local chapter. Both the Playschool and this first AA group are strong community outreach programs still today!

The early John Calvin Church was instrumental in bringing important outreach activities to the community. Because of the suffering of the Henry and Serou families, stricken with Parkinson's Disease we formed the first Parkinson's Family Support group in the state. We established a strong relationship with Evergreen Ministries, a support organization for people with disabilities. Our new minister, Rev. Malsbury even joined the board of directors for Evergreen, and stayed with it for almost 20 years! We were also founding members of the Ulster Project, a project pairing Catholic and Protestant youth from Northern Ireland with their counterparts here in New Orleans to foster tolerance, understanding, and friendship.

That early accommodation of a local AA chapter has transformed through the years. We now have 6 different AA groups, several Al-Anon, Alateen, and Alaparent groups, 3 Narcotics Anonymous groups, and 5 Gamblers Anonymous groups, as well as other groups such as CODA (Co-Dependency), a Friend's widow's support group, and even a couple of Art groups! The rebuilding of the church building allowed for a wing to be built specifically for this mission, and a wonderful community outreach has grown. Most of these groups are anonymous, so we don't see them, but stick around for a while and you hear and feel the quiet, behind the scenes "thanks!", those saved by these organizations have for John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Women (PW), formerly called the Women of the Church, have fostered their own missions through the years and into today. Collection of School Supplies, and BoxTops for Education for our local Alice Birney Elementary School; support of a local batter women's shelter, known as Hagar's House; collection of money and items for Thanksgiving baskets for the poor; collections for Heifer, PW Birthday Offering, and Least Coin Fellowship; and everyone's favorite Salvation Army Christmas Angels, are all organized by the ladies Circles and the PW Council.

Today, much of our church wide mission focus is on a local Presbyterian program to help the homeless in New Orleans and the surrounding area, known as Program of Hope. We make and distribute lunches periodically, but also are starting fund-raisers to purchase vouchers for overnight stays at a local shelter. In addition, we keep emergency food available at the church at Dianne's Pantry, and old and young have a fun time sorting food at Second Harvest Food Bank!

Not to be forgotten, JCPC currently hosts the local STAIR (Start the Adventure in Learning) chapter in our Fellowship Hall with several of our members serving as tutors!

Yes, Christ's mission and our part in fulfilling it was a founding principle of John Calvin Presbyterian Church that has only grown through the years, adapting to the growing and changing needs of our local community. What a great place to join in!

JOHN CALVIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Remember • Rejoice • Renew

Have you see it?

Isn't it wonderful?!

This is the new banner made for the 50th Anniversary, by Tony Hill.

It resides at the front of the Sanctuary, and will grace the narthex when the anniversary celebrations are complete.

Take a look and see what you see. The more you look, the more you see the symbolism Tony incorporated.

See the wall of the original church building?

...the inspiring stained glass of the new church building?

...the flames that nearly destroyed the church as well as the church buildings?

But through it all the Holy Spirit watched over us and carried us through.

We raise our voices rejoicing at what the Lord has given us!

Thank you Tony, for a wonderful addition to the church in celebration of 50 years together.

We rejoice in your talent!



Playschool News

We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. We are eagerly preparing for our students' first day of school on Wednesday, September 7. We have a great group of kids and families this year which we are really excited about! Thank you in advance for your support of our fundraisers this year.



Our first fundraiser will be Save Around Coupon Books, but this will only run for a little over a week from September 9-September 19. Books are \$25 and we are sure you will find coupons in there to make back more than your money spent on the book! Coupons are good through December of 2017 and these books make great presents for family members and friends!

Family Fun Night will take place Friday, September 23 from 6-8 in Fellowship Hall. We are doing a Disney theme and tickets will be sold after worship in the coming weeks.



BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS!

CALVIN, CAROLYN 09/02

CRANFILL, SANDY 09/15

FORTIN, MIKE 09/02

LYBRAND, ELOYEASE 09/16

LAPORTE III, JOHN 09/03

MAGRI, MARISSA 09/17

HEBERT, CALEB PAUL 09/03

ROBINSON, LAURIE 09/20

JOLY, MARYE JANE 09/05

BROWN, JAMES 09/22

CARDINALE, NATHAN 09/07

ISHAM, RYAN 09/22

FRANK, CATHY 09/07

MULLINS, PAULINE 09/24

MAGRI, DAVID 09/09

BOUDREAUX, CONNOR 09/26

ROGERS, JEAN 09/11

SCHWING, KATE MARIE 09/27

THOMAS, RAJU 09/13

ETLAND, ETHAN 09/28

PALERMO, PAULA 09/14

ASHER, MARY 09/28

ASHURST, CHARLES 09/15



September

5th:	Labor Day—Church Office Closed
6th:	PW Council Mtg @ 10:00 (Lbry) P/S Teacher Training
7th:	P/S 1st Day Choir Practice Schedule Resumes @ 7:15p
8th:	PW 1st Fun & Games group meets from 10:00 - noon (Lbry)
9-19th:	P/S “ Save Around Coupon Books ” for sale - \$25
11th:	Sunday School & Confirmation Class Kick-Off Outreach-Congregational Life Fair Teacher Dedication
12th:	Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry) Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
13th:	Lydia Circle Mtgs Resumes @7:00p (Lbry) Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
15th:	Tablecloth Dinner @ Copeland Tower 16th Floor
17th:	Second Harvest JCPC Food Bank Day: { <i>Volunteer's Needed 8:00 - 11:00am</i> }
18th:	Congregational Ofcr Election Mtg after 10:30 Srvc
19th:	Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
20th:	Grace Circle Mtgs Resume @ 9:30 (Lbry) The Gathering of Choirs @ St. Clement of Rome
22nd:	Beginning of Fall
23rd:	P/S Bk-2-Schl Fmly Dinner & Fun Night @ 6:00p

October

4th:	PW Council Mtg @ 10:00 (Lbry)
8th:	50th Choir Rehearsal @ 4:00p
9th:	50th Anniversary Celebration: (<i>No Chapel Service, Sun. School or Conf. Classes</i>) Continental Breakfast @ 8:30 Choir Rehearsal @ 9:15 Sunday Service @ 10:30 Chateau Country Club @ 11:30— <u>Rsrv. Required</u>
10th:	Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry) Worship CM @ 7:00p (CR)
11th:	Lydia Circle Mtg @7:00p (Lbry) Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
17th:	Session Mtg @ 6:00p (Lbry)
18th:	Grace Circle Mtg @ 9:30 (Lbry)
20th:	P/S Bk-2-Schl Fmly Dinner & Fun Night @ 6:30p
21st:	P/S Trunk or Treat @ 6:30p
30th:	Stewardship Sunday
31st:	Beware of children in the streets—“Halloween”

John Calvin Presbyterian Church



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