

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2017

4201 TRANSCONTINENTAL DRIVE
METAIRIE, LA 70006
504.888.1375

In This Issue

- THE STUDY WINDOW
- MUSIC CORNER
- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
- PLAYSCHOOL NEWS
- COMMITTEE NEWS
- BIRTHDAYS/EVENTS



FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON,
AND A TIME FOR EVERY MATTER UNDER HEAVEN

Ecclesiastes 3:1

From



The Study Window

Our stewardship campaign theme this year is **“Defying Gravity”**. The premise of the program is that just as gravity exists in the natural world, financial gravity exists in the economic world we live in. Like the gravity of our planet, financial gravity enables us to function in our daily lives. It is the invisible force that compels us to pursue our basic necessities – things like food, shelter and lodging.

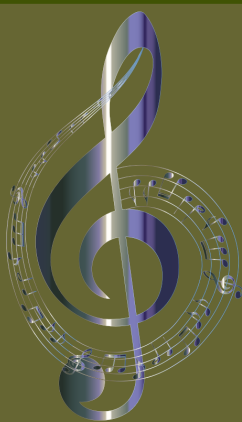
The problem with financial gravity occurs when we feel it so strongly that it takes charge of the way we live. You go into a shopping mall to get a shirt and you come out with six other items just because they were on sale. It's going into Best Buy for a patch cable for your television and come out with a new computer, even though your old one does what you need it to do. When financial gravity is experienced to the extreme, it's like living on Jupiter. Because of the large mass of that planet, a person who weighed a nice trim 140 pounds here would weigh 350 pounds there. Once light steps, become a laboring effort to drag oneself from place to place and soon we're totally exhausted. When we get weighed down by financial gravity all our energy is expended in navigating the material world. When it's extreme, we lose the ability do anything else.

Jesus recognized the problem of financial gravity and addressed it in his teaching. One day a young man came to him and said, “what must I do to have eternal life”? Jesus told him to keep the commandments. He replied, “I have done so since my youth, what do I still lack?” Jesus told him, “go and sell what you have and give it to the poor and come follow me and you will have treasure in heaven”. When the young man heard this, he went away grieving for he had many possessions. The young man wanted to go with Jesus and learn how to give his life fully to God. He wanted to experience a deeper righteousness, but he could not bear to sell his possession. He knew he was tearing up the winning ticket in discipleship lottery and he wept.

This is the tension most of us live in. We want to follow Christ and generously give of our time, talent, and resources to do so, but we are so tied to our things that we have trouble following Christ. This stewardship campaign is designed to help us address this challenge. It involves recognizing the effects of financial gravity and beginning to see ourselves as stewards of God's resources, as the way of breaking free of excess financial gravity. Tethering ourselves to God with thoughtful planning, so that generosity is a specific goal in our financial planning. And last, but not least, when we get it right, and begin to give of ourselves and resources generously, our trust for God deepens, and we discover great joy in helping people become what God intends.

One of the main ways we, as a church, help people grow in grace is through our church facilities. While we think of this as the new church, and it is, it is still fifteen to twenty years old and maintenance needs are increasing. Numerous things, including air conditioners, are starting to wear out and we need to replenish the contingency fund that enables such repairs to be done in a timely fashion. The goal is to raise \$50,000 per year, in addition to our general fund giving for three years. This will enable us to restore the fund to its original \$200,000 balance, even as we are paying for long term maintenance out of the fund.

When we commit ourselves to live as Christ's disciples, and stretch ourselves to give generously as part of that commitment, we learn a number of things. First, when we give more than we think we can we learn that God can be trusted when financial surprises come into our lives. It's amazing, but when we're living as stewards and using God's resources for God's glory and true financial needs come along, God provides for them often in totally unexpected ways. Second, we begin to learn that there is a difference between needs and wants. Discipleship and seeing ourselves as stewards of what God has given us changes our priorities. The thing we learn is that if we ask, God will take away our longing for more. And lastly, as we invest in the work of God's kingdom, we experience more and more of the joy of enabling others to live better lives.



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



By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master

FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

I'm sure many of you can relate to this personal experience. I've always been encouraged when Elders and Prospective New Members share their personal faith journeys at Session Meetings. Mine includes this: I watched many classmates in college cease going to church. It was too inconvenient, or questions about faith weren't being addressed in a meaningful way. I was tempted to drop out, too. In later years I've often said, "The organ bench kept my faith alive." Being an organist disciplined my church going -- carried me through the doubting years. Although it was a mechanical discipline that worked for me, I've found that "being involved" in church matters. Adding that carry over discipline was what I needed.

Over the years I've also been told by many individuals that belonging to the choir ("because I enjoyed music") brought a person to Christ through the testimony of the texts of choral music. It's hard to sing "Up from the grave He arose" and not be moved to faith.

When David said, "Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord," he was reflecting a similar thought: "playing the harp and singing the psalms" kept his faith alive.

A disciplined choir member is hard to pry away from church commitment - and commitment to Christ.

Just another reason to join the choir.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



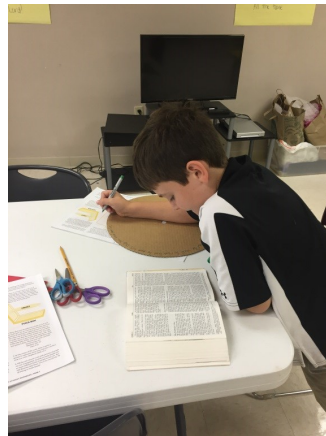
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader

THE YOUTH CORNER



September 10th we had our Sunday school kick off the New Year breakfast. The children enjoyed coming early to eat a big breakfast before going to their classes. We have 4 great classes for the children to attend. The older children are doing a special 6 week curriculum learning about Moses. The class is going great. The youth enjoy discussing the topics and relating them to their own life. Our 4th-6th graders are taking a special God and Family class to earn their God and Family Medallion. This is wonderful opportunity for our girl scouts and boy scouts. Also, for any children who desire to earn this medal. This class is being taught during the first 6 weeks of Sunday school.



The Teacher Dedication was September 10th during 10:30 worship. We supplied a plentiful breakfast, with fellowship for our teachers. This was well attended and we are blessed to have such talented teachers in both the church and playschool.



...TO ALL WHO HELPED
MAKE OUR BREAKFAST
SPECIAL



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS

October Youth Activities!!!

John Calvin Presbyterian Youth Group

Please join us in preparing and serving lunch to the volunteers building a home for **Habitat for Humanity**

Saturday October 7th

9:00- 1:00

As a church youth group, we will make the lunch, deliver the lunch, set up the lunch and clean it all up. We will feed 60 hungry people!

We will prepare lunch in the fellowship hall kitchen. We will then caravan as a group to the construction site to serve the lunches.

We will return to church after clean up.

Please RSVP to: Julie.hebert@johncalvinchurch.org

Service hours will be provided!!!

Youth Group Night Out!!! October 27th 5:30pm



Playschool News

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. We are full in all of our classes! Our youngest students have adjusted well and are starting to trade in the tears for the smiles!

A couple important Playschool dates to note:

October 2-13: Cherrydale Heart/Home Gifts, Wrap It Up, and Otis Spunkmeyer 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.

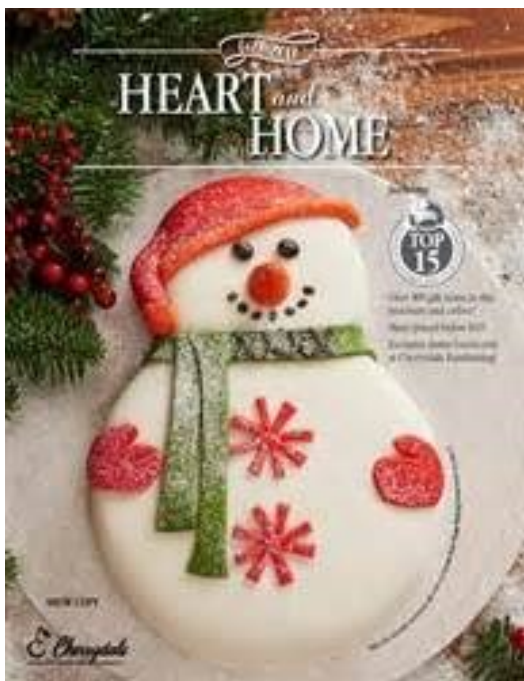
October 11: Cane's Night on Veterans by Lake Villa (12-9 pm)

October 21: JCPS Trunk or Treat (Rain date is October 27)

October 26: Parent's Night at 6:30 in the Sanctuary followed by classroom visits
Thank you in advance for your support of our fundraisers this year.

This year, John Calvin Playschool is excited to fundraise **with OTIS SPUNKMEYER & CHERRYDALE HEART/HOME GIFTS**. We will once again be selling the highest quality products in the fundraising market today.

NEW this season from Otis Spunkmeyer is the **BUTTER TOFFEE CRUNCH COOKIE!!!** In addition to



the delicious assortment of cookies offered, Otis also sells Auntie Anne's Hand Twisted Pretzels & Soft Pretzel Nuggets! There is also a great selection of soups and breads. The holidays will be here before you know it, so stock up now!!!

Cherrydale Heart/ Home Gifts & Wrap It Up catalogs offer wrapping paper, kitchen gadgets, candles and much more! There's something for everyone on your Christmas list, from Grandma to Fido!!



Snippets

From Presbyterian



Presbyterian Women's Council held their first meeting of this new year on September 12, 2017. Council members are as follows:

Moderator – Sandy Cranfill
Vice Moderator – Barbara Remmelts
Secretary – Julie Etland
Treasurer – Emily Garland
Mission & Community Concerns (Co-Chairs) - Lorraine Hicks & Evelyn Tobey
Nurture – Jananne Lankard
Baptisms – Ann Trapani
Circle Leaders – Mary Antill (Lydia) & Barbara Remmelts (Grace)

Council meetings are held at 10 AM on the first Tuesday of each month, from September through May. The group meets in the church library and all women are invited to attend. The purposes of PW are Missions, Bible Study (through the two Circles), and Fellowship. This year, both Circles are studying the book of Hebrews. Lydia Circle meets at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of each month. Grace Circle meets at 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of each month. Both groups meet in the church library. The following are programs sponsored by PW:

Mission

Thanksgiving Food Baskets
Christmas Angels
Heifer Offering
School Supplies for A. Birney
PW Birthday Offering
The Least Coin

Fellowship

Fellowship dinners after the choir concerts at Christmas & Palm Sunday
Bi-monthly Game Days (10 AM, the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month)
Christmas Cookie Exchange

The Council voted to initiate two new programs this year. College "Care Packages" will be assembled and mailed prior to exams in December & May. These will be sent to students who are active members of John Calvin. Secondly, a program called, "Just Checking" will be initiated. Interested adults will sign up to buddy with another member. They will agree to checking in with one another, daily, to make sure all is well or to call for help, if that is needed. Many of our members live alone and could benefit from someone "checking in" on them. This is not a time for lengthy conversations, but rather just a short check. Please see Sandy Cranfill if you are interested in participating.

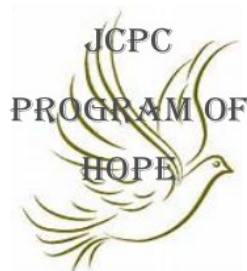
PW has been working to repair and replace Chrismons for the Sanctuary Christmas tree. I am grateful for all of the hard work which has gone in to this project. My thanks goes out to all the talented women who have participated!

Sandy Cranfill

PROGRAM OF HOPE – *PRESENT AND FUTURE*

Again, we would like to thank all those that participated in supporting the program in the month of August – as we prepared and served over 400 lunches during the month. At the same time, we delivered the items of clothes, toiletries, and other items (such as baby strollers, satchels) you donated – as you kindly do throughout the year.

We now look forward to our next opportunity – January, 2018.



FYI – here are some fundraisers scheduled: First Pres.’ “Pumpkin Patch” Sale begins in October; Cooter Brown’s Tavern & Oyster Bar will donate 20% of their proceeds received from 5-8 on Oct. 26; JCPC’s White Elephant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 18.

Your August Volunteers:

Richard Britson

Carolyn Calvin

Amy Cardinale (and Fran)

Margaret Corcoran

Sandy Cranfill

Sue Crawford

Barbara Eagan

Sharon Fortin

Carol Fourmaux

Emily Garland

Lorraine Hicks (and Henry)

Jananne Lankard

Linda Lowry

Barbara McHan

Jon O’Regan

Barbara Taylor

Jeanette Speiss

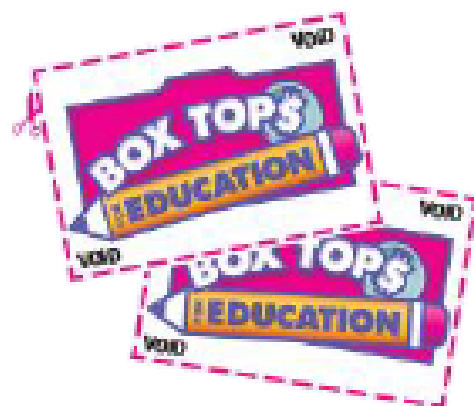
Evelyn Tobey

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 SpaghettO 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!

Birthdays In



Helen Fish 1-Oct

Evelyn Tobey 1-Oct

Elizabeth Wade 6-Oct

Helen Wooden 7-Oct

Brendan Isham 9-Oct

Larry Wise 9-Oct

Earl Sundmaker 11-Oct

Suzanne Wooderson 15-Oct

Lauren Bone 17-Oct

Laurell Bzrown 17-Oct

Ragina Isham 19-Oct

Harriet Cross 22-Oct

Louise Fuller 28-Oct

Barbara McHan 29-Oct



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar








October

- 2nd: P/S Wrap & Cookie Fundraiser ***Begins***
> Worship CM @ 5:30 (CR)
- 3rd: Last chance to bring snacks  for Habitat For Humanity!
> PW Council Mtg @ 10a (Lbry)
- 5th: Unity Build Begins  (**October's**: Thur/Fri/Sat)
 >P/S Individual School Pictures
>PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 7th: **YG**—Providing Unity Build Lunches (*Ages 12-up*)
- 8th: C/E CM after Worship
- 9th: >Columbus Day 
>P/S CM @ noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 10th: Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource Mtg @ 7:00p (CR)
- 11th: P/S Cane's Night Fundraiser on Vets (12-9)
- 13th: P/S Wrap & Cookie Fundraiser ***Ends***
- 16th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 17th: Grace Circle @ 9:30a (Lbry)
- 19th: PW **FUN & GAMES** @ 10:00a (Lbry)
- 20th: P/S  Trunk or Treat
- 26th: P/S Parent's Night (Sanc) @ 6:00p
- 27th: **YG**—Christian Concert: Meet @ Church—5:30p (*Ages 12-up*)
>P/S Trunk or Treat Rain Day

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

November

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

John Calvin Presbyterian Church



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