

May 1, 2014

# Calvin Commentary

## From The Study Window

In his book, Missional Renaissance, Reggie McNeal suggests that the church needs to move from seeing itself as the focus to making God the focus. He suggests that the role of the church is to bless the world. In blessing the world the people of God reveal God's heart for the world. We are blessed to be a blessing. "For God so loved the world that gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life". This gift, this blessing, is not just to certain individuals, it is for everyone, God so loved the world.

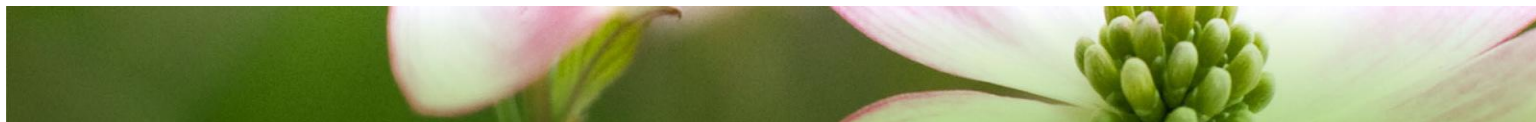
In this context McNeal, in a tongue in cheek manner, invites congregations to quit evangelizing. He does this to make two points. First, the church has turned evangelism into some kind of activity or program that we train people to engage in rather than recognizing that evangelism is a natural byproduct of a Christian's life. When evangelism is a program, it often involves questionable methods that make faith a commodity and involve some ploy to get people to connect with the church. Second, people don't want to do it. If they did we wouldn't have to work so hard to get people involved in evangelism programs.

McNeal points out that a better program is needed. He urges congregations and individuals to develop a blessing strategy. He challenges people to bless three people this week. Then to make it even harder, he adds that you make sure one of them doesn't deserve it. The point is none of us deserve God's blessings. We don't own the blessings of God and we sure don't get to decide who deserves them. The message of John 3:16 is clear, God blesses everyone because that is who God is and what God likes to do.

When God's people decide to live out their covenant to bless those around them amazing things happen. When people know we genuinely care about them, they begin to open up and share both their joy and their pain. One man tells of shopping in a sporting goods store that he frequented when he noticed that the manager seemed to be having a bad day. He decided to bless the man and approached him and said, "How is your day going"? The man replied, "I wish I was anywhere but here". The man said, "I will pray for you". This simple act of caring led the manager to blurt out his hurts. "I'm working over sixty hours a week, I'm losing money and I've probably already lost my marriage. I don't know what to do". The man said simply, "I will ask God to help you". When he returned to the store a few days later the manager immediately came over to talk to him. "I got an offer out of the blue to buy this store. I'm going to make money and my wife's agreed to go to counseling". All of this happened in four days. This is our God in action. God delights in blessing people.

To practice the blessing life, we need to believe God, not just believe in God. There is a huge difference between the two. To believe God is to stake our lives on what God says. We have to believe that God has the ability to draw people to himself through these blessings encounters. We have to be convinced that God is always at work in the lives of people even if they don't recognize it and trust that God will continue to be at work. We have to believe God enough to put God on the line and trust God to show up and bless people. Indeed God is waiting on us to do so.

In Christ's Service, Rev. Harry Brown



## MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Chapel Service <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School for all ages <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> PS Field Trip to City Park Storyland <b>6:30 PM</b> CE Search Cmt Mtg <b>7:00 PM</b> New Orleans Old Rose Society Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Genealogy Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Happy Mother's Day PW Birthday Offering to be received <b>8:30 AM</b> Chapel Service <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School for all ages <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Mission Redefinition Sunday <b>8:30 AM</b> Chapel Service <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School for all ages <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>19</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Transition Kindergarten Graduation <b>7:00 PM</b> Session Meeting	<b>20</b> PreK + Graduation 1 & 2pm <b>11:00 AM</b> PreK Graduation	<b>21</b> Last Day of School <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Chapel Service <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Worship <b>11:30 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>26</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>7:15 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



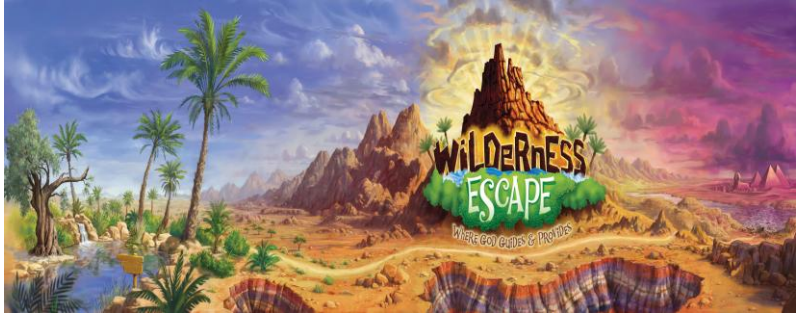
2	Kit Melchert	29	Don Melchert
6	Dianne Boan	31	Arnold Zea
12	David Russo	31	Bob Wooderson
14	George Cowand		
17	Mel Fourmaux		
20	Laura Thomas		

# JCPC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 23-27

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Ages 3 (potty trained) – Grade 3



Join an Incredible Adventure!

## “Wilderness Escape”

Where kids caravan with Moses & the Israelites and learn how God guides and provides.

Register your child to Wilderness Escape and they can become part of the journey as Moses and the Israelites watch God guide and provide! They'll travel back into Bible times—without setting foot outside our community.

Each day, the children can become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in the Bible-times wilderness! They'll explore the Israelite Camp tents, visit Moses, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as they discover more about Moses' adventures. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!

Registration forms are available in the Church and Playschool Office.



Help wanted to

- ◇ Answer the phone
- ◇ Provide an extra set of hands
- ◇ Welcome guest

I am looking for volunteers to pick up the phone and say, John Calvin Church, how can I help you?"

You might get to stuff inserts in the bulletins, or file invoices but mostly answering the phone that will allow me to work on other necessary items.

Monday – Thursday  
9:00-3:30 every week --  
Call or email Dianne Boan  
for more details or to sign  
up for a time slot.

[dpb@johncalvinchurch.org](mailto:dpb@johncalvinchurch.org)

## Updating Email Addresses

Please let the church office know if your email or contact info changes during the year.

Most of church information is sent through email, so please keep your information updated.



## Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering 2014

Each year Presbyterian Women celebrate the birth of their organization with the support of a special mission project. The project for 2014 is the Blue Corn Mothers Alliance. The Alliance provides a range of services for Albuquerque's Native American women who have experienced domestic and sexual violence. Research shows that Native American women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence than non-Native women.

This multifaceted program offers advocacy; crisis intervention; health, counseling and education services; and referrals for legal and shelter services to Native American women and children who have suffered domestic violence.

This program is currently run one day a week by volunteers out of LA Mesa Presbyterian Church. Through a Birthday offering grant, the Blue Corn Mothers advocacy center will be staffed five days a week, instead of one day. The actual grant amount will depend on monies received in 2014.

Please consider giving to the Birthday Offering. Your gifts make a difference. Special envelopes will be provided in the bulletins on May 11.

Make checks payable to John Calvin Presbyterian Church and write PW Birthday Offering on the memo line.



## New JCPC Sign

Thank you to the JCPC Sign Committee for your time and efforts in bringing the dream of a lighted sign on Transcontinental to fruition. Your work is appreciated!

## TABLECLOTH DINNER



**4411 Chastant Street  
Metairie, LA 70006**

**Thursday, May 8th**

**SOCIAL 6:30PM**

**DINNER 7PM**

### **MENU**

#### **Appetizers**

Fried Eggplant

Caesar Salad

#### **Choice of Entrée**

Canneloni

Catfish Almondine

Chicken Parmigiana

#### **Dessert**

White Chocolate Bread Pudding

#### **Beverages**

Iced Tea and Coffee

#### **Price**

\$38.00 per person  
(Includes tax and gratuity)

**\*Please make checks payable to  
Margaret Corcoran**



# JOHN CALVIN PLAYSCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

**Ages \*2-5**

**\*2 year olds must be registered at John Calvin for the 2014-2015 school year.**

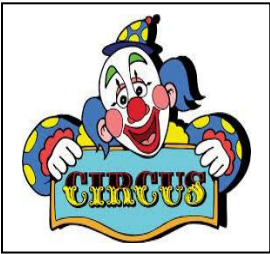
Join us for four fun-filled weeks this summer as we learn about fun places and meet new faces! This year, we will be joining the circus, going camping, working on a farm, and learning all about things that go! So don't miss out, sign up now!

We will have Weekly Water Days, fun themed activities and events,  
In-House Field trips and special guests!! You don't want to miss the fun!

**\*Current student registration begins March 24th.**

**\*\*New Student and General Registration begin April 7th.**

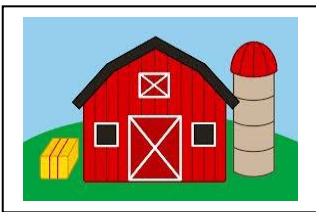
**Session 1: Under the Big Top**  
**June 9th—13th**



**Session 2: Let's Go!**  
**June 16th—20th**



**Session 3: Down on the Farm**  
**July 14th—18th**



**Session 4: Through the Woods**  
**July 21st—25th**



**Registration Fee: \$30 per camper**

**M-F Tuition: \$95 per week**

**(4-5 year olds can only register M-F.**

**2's and 3's may register 5-day or 3-day)**

**MWF Tuition: \$75 per week**

**(2's and 3's ONLY)**

**For more information, please call or email:**

**Phone: 504.888.1378**

**Email: [playschool@johncalvinchurch.org](mailto:playschool@johncalvinchurch.org)**