Calvin Commentary

John Calvin Presbyterian Church 4201 Transcontinental Drive Metairie, LA 70006 504.888.1375

JUNE 2015

Upcoming Events

Numbers 6:24 The LORD bless you and keep you.

Blessed Father's Day!

6/5 & 6/6 Youth Garage Sale

6/8 – 6/12 6/15 – 6/19 7/6 – 7/10 7/13 – 7/17 PS Summer Camp

From the Study Window

When Bishop Joseph A. Galante arrived at the Catholic Diocese of Camden, N.J. in 2004, he didn't introduce himself by issuing directives. He began by listening. For 15 months, he hosted "Speak Up" sessions at every parish throughout the far-flung South Jersey diocese. He wanted to know: What were the most important pastoral issues facing his flock?

In meeting after meeting, some 140 sessions in all, people expressed concerns that would have been familiar in Catholic parish halls -- and more than a few Protestant churches -across the country. They were worried about young people leaving the faith. They wanted more compassionate outreach programs. They were concerned about the shortage of priests; where would new ones come from?

But again and again, they also told their new bishop they wanted better opportunities for theological formation. Across the diocese, laity -- who today serve the church in almost every capacity short of administering the sacraments -- said they needed deeper, richer theological and pastoral formation so they could perform the tasks of lay ministry well.

Based on those conversations, Galante and his staff created an extensive program of lay ministry formation. With few resources in the area -- South Jersey has no Catholic institutions of higher education -- they looked elsewhere for help, putting together a network of Catholic colleges and seminaries to provide both undergraduate and graduate instruction, online and in local classrooms. "Basically, we've created a university without walls," Galante said.

As I read the above article in the Alban Weekly it struck me that there are a number of parallels to our situation as a congregation as we continue to work with mission redefinition. One of our goals was pastoral care and I suspect that at least some of us would like more training. Some of this can be done in house through training offered here by people who have expertise in hospital visitation, grief counseling, retirement planning, managing the empty nest, mentoring for marriages and parenting. Some of these needs can be met through courses offered on line at our seminaries and lay pastor training programs.

We also said that one of our goals was to be mission central for the community. In order to do this we need to form listening teams to go out into the community and learn more accurately the concerns of the community. Then we need to put visioning teams together to develop strategies for meeting those needs. As I reflect on the situation it seems to me that the place that most needs attention is listening groups to meet with various organizations and groups in the neighborhood; to learn what the needs are in our immediate neighborhood. We need to meet with school officials, hospital officials, parish officials, civic and neighborhood groups and listen and then as appropriate develop new missions. As a step in this direction, if you would be interested in a being part of a listening team, please let me know.

In Christ's Service

Rev. Harry Brown

PROGRAM OF HOPE Giving in LOVE

Mark your calendars! We resume active participation in July. We will be preparing sandwiches each Tuesday afternoon in July in our Fellowship Hall, and providing volunteers at First Presbyterian Church on each Wednesday morning of that month. We are continuing to accept your donations of seasonal clothing, toiletries, etc. Thank you so much for your generous donations!



Once again, the Presbyterian Women are working along with Heifer International to try to end hunger and poverty in underdeveloped countries.

Heifer puts faith in action with its time-proven principle of "Passing on the Gift". Each family who receives livestock agrees to pass on one or more of its animal's offspring to another neighbor in need. This sustains the program and keeps it moving forward. Of special concern this year are the recent earthquakes and mudslides in Nepal. Lots of devastation to animals and crops.

We ask for your prayerful consideration in making a donation. Our gifts do make a difference. Special envelopes will be provided in the bulletins on June 7 and 14. Make checks payable to John Calvin Church with Heifer International on the memo line. Please place in the offering plate.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1

- 2 Cindy Freudenthal
- 4 Sarah Springler
- 9 Connie Casey
- 11 William Fernandez
- 12 Kaj Magri
- 13 Paul Palermo
- 16 Greg Freudenthal
- 18 Jane Malsbary
- 18 Freddie Marler
- 18 Brock Moore
- 24 Sebastian Zea
- 25 Kelly Zea

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

There are open dates on the flower calendar:

7/19	10/25
7/26	12/6
9/6	12/13
10/4	12/24
10/11	12/27

If you would like to dedicate flowers for an occasion or to the glory of God, sign up today!

MUSIC NOTES

Professionalism versus amateurism. What's the difference?

I'm a professional because I am engaged in a specified activity (music) as my main paid occupation rather than as a pastime. I'm also an amateur because I'm a person attached to a particular pursuit (church music) in a nonprofessional manner as one who loves church music. Amateurs often have little or no formal training in their pursuits, and many are autodidacts (self-taught). Now it's getting confusing! So, let's just say, I have formal, academic training in music (Princeton University, Columbia University, Washington University, Rider University and The University of New Orleans); I have a life-time of experience in church music; I love my pursuit of music in the service of God and the church; and my self-education lists years of engagement with the field of music in all its forms. Also, I am widely affiliated with professional associations that foster deeper levels of education and involvement: The American Guild of Organists (three times serving as Dean); The Organ Historical Society (regularly engaged in organ design, historical analysis and restoration); and The American Choral Directors Association (founder of the Savoyards of Princeton, thePro Arte Chorale, the Bel Canto Chorus and Orchestra).

So, as they say, that and a three dollar bill will get you a cup of coffee. What's your story? Our choir and orchestra boast every gradation on the range of professional and amateur status. And most of us are volunteers. JCPC is unlike some churches who pay for most of their performers. So we highly regard our volunteers (both professional and amateur). Often the very attitude of amateurism that both amateur and professional bring to their service makes the JCPC music "department" a unique contributing experience. In a very real way, it makes the JCPC music "department" a mission conscious outreach. How often have we heard that people have been attracted to our church by the music?

So, sing and play, bringing your talent and love to the Music Corner, as a gift of service Deo Soli Gloria (to God alone for His glory).

William R. Memmott

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful. - Psalm 149:1

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 20 -24 9:00 a.m. - NOON

We are still in need of volunteers! If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Laurie Robinson. Registration forms are available in the church office or you may register online at *johncalvinchurch.org*.



<u>YOUTH ANNUAL</u> <u>YARD SALE</u>

DATE: June 5th & 6th TIME: 8am – Noon

We are still collecting donations. If you have any items that you no longer need or would like to donate, please drop them off at the Fellowship Hall.



Playschool News

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE: (All weeks are from 9am-Noon)

WEEK 1 – JUNE 8 – 12 WEEK 2 – JUNE 15 – 19 WEEK 3 – JULY 6 – 10 WEEK 4 – JULY 13 – 17

For more information please contact the Playschool office at 888-1378.