

AUGUST 2015

CALVIN COMMENTARY

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In This Issue

- THE STUDY WINDOW
- MUSIC NOTES
- COMMITTEE NEWS
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- BIRTHDAYS

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Chapel Service –
8:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship –
10:30 a.m.

*For by grace you have been saved through
faith, and this is not your own doing; it is
the gift of God. ~ Ephesians 2:8*



From the Study Window

Recently I came across an interesting article from the Alban Institute regarding things that make congregations vital.

First is prayer. Prayer is essential to grounding ourselves in God. Prayer helps us to keep the main thing the main thing. Prayer gets the self out of the way so that we are available to God's purposes. Prayer is both acknowledging and claiming the power of God. It is learning over and over that we can't make the church vital simply by our own efforts, but God can and will.

Second is a deep belief that God is at work and will guide and direct our transformational efforts. Closely related to prayer is the firm belief that God is already at work and will continue to work to guide our efforts to change to more fully reflect God's will and love. We need to be aware that what we say, the way we talk and express ourselves, becomes the house we live in. This means being very positive and careful in the words we choose to use such that we are always creating an atmosphere of hope.

Third is telling the stories of how God is at work. A miracle is not just when a person is healed of cancer. It is also the more ordinary moments when God's love and

grace overwhelm our sensibilities, when we see the church immersed in God's goodness. When we do ordinary things in God's service God takes those things and uses them to accomplish incredible things.

Fourth is a clear sense of mission. God intends to work through us to create new life in the midst of this community. We need to discern the ways God is calling us to do this and then act on them trusting that God will make our efforts effective. But at the same time, we need to understand that we cannot revitalize the church simply by good management. Good management makes things effective but it doesn't result in revitalization. We can only be led into revitalization by allowing God to transform us.

Fifth is readiness to color outside the lines, think outside the box. Life in the church is a journey from orientation to disorientation to orientation. We grow only if we have seasons of disorientation. All too often God can't catch our attention if we are not a little disoriented. It is only when we look outside the box that we can truly discern where God is leading us.

Sixth is being fearless in making tough choices and managing the anxiety that is generated. Being fearless is in large part about being consistent. It is one thing to make a tough decision it is another thing entirely to stay with that decision when the pressure builds. It is important to live with tough decisions long enough for them to make an impact. However, there is a difference between being fearless and being reckless. Being fearless is about courageously living out our values and faith. Being reckless is doing something to get attention rather than making a tough decision because it is the right thing to do.

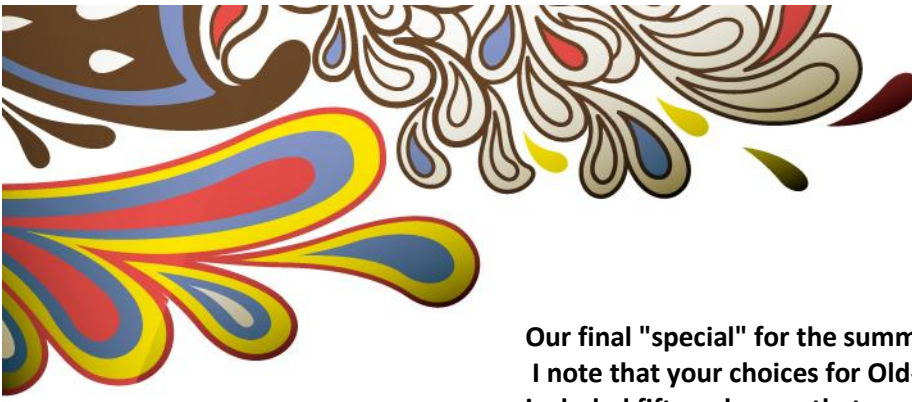
Seventh is the willingness to humbly admit mistakes and work to fix them. If a risk doesn't work out, we can't ignore it. When we take risks and make changes not everything is going to work out. We have to be ready and willing to take responsibility for outcomes. If we can't or don't admit that a course of action is not working it will be a disaster for the organization.

Eighth is always being grateful. God is doing powerful things in refining and reorienting the church and its traditions. As people of faith we are breaking free of structures that have held us in bondage and we are confident that we are being transformed in order to create disciples who will transform the world with the grace of God.

In Christ's Service,

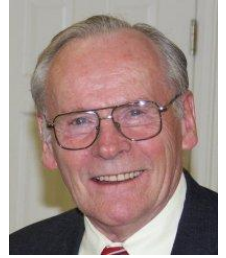
Rev. Harry Brown





Music Notes

By: William R. Memmott



september

CHOIR PRACTICE
RESUMES

Do you have
vocal or
instrumental
talent?

Join us in
Music
Corner!

Our final "special" for the summer is now history.

I note that your choices for Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing included fifteen hymns that are no longer in our modern hymnals. What wonderful selections! I really had to dig to find "Count Your Blessings!" Now the choir relaxes for a month. The resumption of choir rehearsals is Wednesday, September 2 at 7:15 p.m. Come one, come all!

And what a busy season we face. Of course, we share in the Gathering of Choirs at St. Clement of Rome in October. Then we gather with guests and members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in the premiere performance at the University of New Orleans of my new oratorio: "For Such a Time as This." This is in fulfillment of requirements for a masters degree in composition. It tells the story of Queen Esther and her battle to save the Jewish nation from annihilation. Some day in November TBA.

Then we present our annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 13. This will be a collection of works for Christmas called, "A New Generation Sings Christmas." New music from recent years is quickly becoming familiar, such as "Mary, Did You Know," "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted," "Hallelujah" ("I've heard about this baby boy"), "The Little Drummer Boy," "Gloria" by Poulenc, and many others. Again we will be joined by a professional orchestra.

Like a second Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing, we gather on Christmas Eve for the familiar carols of the season.

A look ahead to our Easter Concert. On Palm Sunday (with orchestra) we will sing a seldom heard oratorio (except for the opening chorus) by Felix Mendelssohn, "Christus."

We light the candles for new singers to add to our "band." And you don't have to be a professional singer. Our In-House Orchestra can also use new players.

Soli Deo Gloria

Beginning in September

CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY – 10:00 a.m.



The Presbyterian Women of John Calvin are actively involved in several mission projects. We collect food for Thanksgiving baskets, toys for children through the Christmas Angels program, monetary donations to purchase livestock for third world countries through the Heifer Program, and the PW Birthday offering supports a program for the needy in the USA and another foreign country.

The last two years we have partnered with Alice Birney Elementary School to provide needed school supplies. Several of our members are or have been teachers in Jefferson Parish. They expressed a need for school supplies beginning in January. By then, many supplies have been consumed, broken or lost. Many teachers have to spend their own funds to replenish these needed supplies. So, again, this year we are asking for your assistance with this program. After speaking to the principal, we have narrowed the list of supplies that are needed. We want to shop for these school supplies while "Back to School" sales are in progress, but we will not deliver supplies until January. If you would like to participate, please put your donation in an envelope and mark with "School Supplies". You may put this in the offering plate on Sunday, or drop it off at the Church Office.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN ALL OUR MISSIONS!

Circle Groups Begin in September

GRACE CIRCLE – 3rd TUESDAY

@ 9:30 a.m. – JCPC Library

LYDIA CIRCLE – 2nd TUESDAY

@ 7:00 p.m. – Location to be announced.





Presbyterian Woman Fall Rally

Saturday, August 15th

Parkway Presbyterian Church

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Sign-Up Forms are available in the Church Office.



*You are
cordially
invited....*

When: Sunday, August 30th

Where: Home of Nancy Davis

641 Brouilly Dr. in Chateaux Estates Lakefront

Time: 2:00 p.m.

All women and friends of JCPC are invited to an afternoon get-together to make and renew friendships. We will celebrate the fun of summer and the beginning of a new church and school year. This event is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women. Children and teens are welcome! Come and bring a friend and join us for fun, food and fellowship! R.S.V.P to Nancy Davis or the Church Office – 504.888.1375.



Program of Hope

The coming of August brings the close to another month of providing lunches to Program of Hope. This is the program where, every 5 months, JCPC provides lunches and helpers to the homeless program at the First Presbyterian Church New Orleans. Every 4 months we have a different situation and July was no different. We provided lunches for 5 Wednesdays and support for the activities during a high vacation month. It's good to be in the position that First Pres knows JCPC will be there, ready, willing, with helpers to spare!

Our sandwich team makes 110 to 120 sandwiches each Tuesday in our Fellowship Hall. This group is an elite bunch that sweeps in at 2:00, sets up, and gets those sandwiches made in under 45 minutes! They are mostly senior members of our congregation who have a brilliant system. Hurray for the Sandwich Team!

On one of the recent Wednesdays as we were cleaning up, a woman whom we didn't recognize stopped and talked to each of us individually to say thank you. She looked each of us in the eye, took our hand and expressed her heart-felt thanks for helping her out for that day. The blessings we receive from these folks are amazing. Truly it is a blessing to participate in this ministry. Thank you to all of the JCPC congregation for supporting this vital mission!



Approximately 75 children attended Vacation Bible School this year and learned to conquer challenges with God's mighty power! Through the theme this year the children learned **that God has the power to Provide, Comfort, Heal, Forgive, and Love us forever.**

Thank you to all our volunteer members of our church congregation who make this happen every year. Your time and dedication is deeply appreciated. Special thanks go to: Dianne Boan, Rev. Harry Brown, Laurell Brown, Carolyn Calvin, Jan Cox, Julie Etland, Kristin Guidry-Rich, Julie Hebert, Tony Hill, Jananne Lankard, Linda Lowry, Eva Mace, Cynthia Palmisano, Debbie Russo, Barbara Taylor, Evelyn Tobey, Judy and Wayne Tracy. Thank you also to our Junior JCPC crew leaders; Ethan Etland, Caleb Hebert, Anna Hutto, Megan Lauland, Mia Lauland, Portia Robinson and Maggie Walker.



Sunday School Starts on September 13th



Just for kids—

an adventure every week!

DEEP BLUE

Based on the award-winning *Deep Blue Kids Bible*, this awe-inspiring resource for children includes 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!





2	Kristen Guidry-Rich
2	Vanessa Nelson
2	Randall Antill
3	Lauren Fish
6	Mia Lauand
8	Bella Magri
9	Marcia Fuller
16	Janis Britson
16	Matthew Freudenthal
21	Bill Bottomley
23	Marlyn Brown
24	Sara Smith
25	Jananne Lankard
25	Bill Fuller
25	Ron Palmisano
26	Joe Miller
27	Milton Spiess
30	Ashley Wade

8.4 – P.W. Council Mtg. – 2:00 p.m.

8.9 – Worship Committee Mtg. - Noon

8.9 - C.E. Meeting – Noon

8.11 – Resoure Mtg – 7:00 p.m.

8.15 – P.W. Fall Rally – 8:30 a.m.

8.17 – Session Mtg. – 7:00 p.m.

8.24 – P.S. Committee Mtg. – Noon

8.25 & 8.26 – Teacher In-Service

8.29 – S.S. Teacher Mtg. – 10:00 a.m.

8.30 – P.W. Summer Event – 2:00 p.m.

***If your birthday is not listed, please
notify the Church Office at
504.888.1375.***