



CALVIN COMMENTARY

*John Calvin Presbyterian Church
4201 Transcontinental Drive
Metairie, LA 70006
504.888.1375
www.joncalvinchurch.org*

FEBRUARY 2016 EDITION

In This Issue:

- Study Window
- Music Corner
- Committee News
- Birthdays

***O give thanks to
the Lord, for he is
good; his steadfast
love endures
forever!***

~ Psalm 118:1

From the Study Window

The Importance and Purpose of Lent

Lent is the span of time in the church calendar that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday commemorates the beginning of Jesus forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness and Easter Sunday commemorates Jesus resurrection following his death on the cross. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Lent is not officially instituted in Scripture and thus it is not a requirement for Christians. But many denominations and individual Christians find the observance of the season an important way to grow in faith. Lent, is generally observed as a time for Christians to reflect, repent, and pray as a way of focusing their thoughts on Christ and all he has done for us in life, death, and resurrection.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting or self-denial and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection in which we reflect on the ways we fall short of what God calls us to be and prayerfully seek God's strength and guidance in growing into the disciples we are called to be. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, engaging in prayers of confession and supplication, Bible study, and service in which they give themselves for others.

Our Lenten observances will begin with a light meal and an Ash Wednesday Worship service in the fellowship hall on February 10 at 6 pm. The worship service will begin at 6:30 and will be an invitation to the observance of the Lenten discipline in which we repent of our sin and turn toward God in prayer and reflection of scripture. The service will involve the imposition of ashes and will conclude with communion, which would be an invitation to live in justice, righteousness, and humility.

During the **Sundays** in Lent I will be focusing in the sermons on the words Christ spoken from the cross. At this point Jesus is well aware that he is dying and thus these are the last and some of the most important words of his communications to his followers. We will look at "Today you will be with me in paradise"; "Behold your son, behold your mother"; "my God, my God why have you forsaken me?" and "it is finished". We will also be continuing our journey to the cross and display of the various things involved in Christ's denial and crucifixion.

On **Wednesday evenings** we will continue our tradition of Wednesday Night Live with light meals and Bible Study. These will occur on Wednesdays, Feb. 17 through March 16. The study [Illuminating Lent](#) is written by Donald McKim, who is a retired Presbyterian minister who has served as editor for Westminster John Knox Press, a seminary theology professor and an academic dean as well as a pastor. The study will help us look at the Lord's Prayer in the context of Lent. The prayer gives us the foundation for faith and guides us into what our relationship with God in Jesus Christ can mean for us as disciples. In each session we will focus on a direction that the Lord's Prayer encourages us to look at in our spiritual growth and development.

I look forward to sharing with you in the Lenten Season and pray that it will be a time of enrichment in faith for all of us.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Harry Brown



And the second is
like unto it, Thou
shalt love thy
neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30



JOIN THE
CHOIR

FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

Since Mardi Gras is early this year (February 9th), that means that Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season are also early. Palm Sunday is March 20th when we shall present the Lenten Concert featuring the oratorio "Christus" by Felix Mendelssohn. So, we are busy in preparations.

When he was 9 years old his whole family became Christians which is reflected in his compositions. We are all familiar with his "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," "A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture," and the Lone Ranger theme from the "Fingal's Cave Overture." When he was 20 a gift from his grandmother of the score of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" led to a Bach revival across Europe.

A year before his death, Mendelssohn began work on "Christus," the life of Christ. Although not fully completed, his brother Paul published it from Felix's notes and manuscripts. It is replete with the rich melodic writing and dynamic accompaniments of this leading figure of the Romantic period. In the past we have performed the anthem from the work, "There Shall a Star from Jacob Rise Up." The entire work has not been done in New Orleans for many years.

Repeating our often sounded call for singers, now is a good time to join the choir. You will be blessed in your efforts and will contribute to our worship experience at JCPC: Wednesday nights at 7:15 p.m. Come and join us, and add March 20th to your calendar.

Soli Deo Gloria





SESSION MEMBERS – 2016

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pictured left to right (back row): Richard Britson, Laurie Robinson, Barbara Taylor, Danny Cain, Wayne Tracy, Jeremy Moore, Mike Isham and Harry Brown.

Pictured left to right (middle row): Sharon Fortin, Sandy Cranfill and Barbara Remmelts.

Pictured left to right (front row): Beverly Ross, Bill Bottomley and Sheryl Wise.

Not pictured are: Barbara Mchan, Ron Palmisano, Jeanette Spiess, Ray Weindel and Greg Freudenthal.



OUTREACH NEWS



50 years ago... did you know?

Fifty years ago, a few local Presbyterians were talking about the possible need for a Presbyterian Church in the newly developing area of on the west side of Metairie. That was the beginning of what would become John Calvin Presbyterian Church!

The vision was officially conceived on March 3, 1966 at a meeting of Presbytery officials in the New Orleans Petroleum Club, and commissioned the next day.

Stay tuned for more tidbits on the history of John Calvin Presbyterian Church as we begin the celebration of 50 years serving Christ.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Tuesday, February 2 @ 10am – Coordinating Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 2 @ 7:30pm – Lydia Circle Meeting

Tuesday, February 16 @ 9:30am – Grace Circle Meeting

All Women Are Welcome!!

Second Harvest Food Bank

John Calvin supports Second Harvest, whose stated mission is to end hunger in South Louisiana by providing food access, advocacy, education, and disaster response. Through the support of volunteers, Second Harvest provides nearly 23 million meals to over 200,000 individuals annually. (Second Harvest is rated 4-stars by Charity Navigator.)

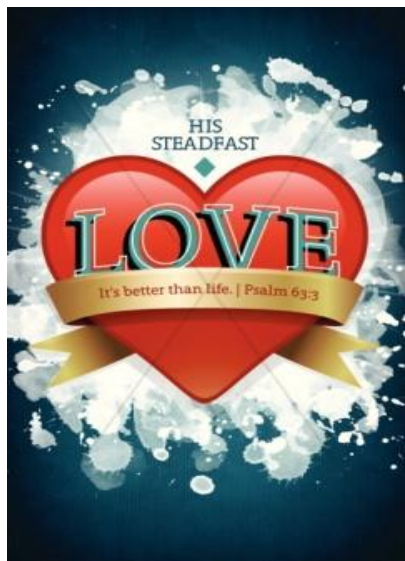
We have secured a volunteer activity date to help with food sorting at Second Harvest's warehouse on **Saturday, March 5, at 8 a.m.** Please mark your calendars. More to follow.

Project of Hope (POH) Update

Thanks to our 17 volunteers who prepared sandwiches and served those at First Presbyterian Church, during December. As 2016 dawns, we are looking forward to our continuing participation – in the months of May and October. ***Please mark your calendars.***

This would also be an appropriate time to renew our thanks to all who participated in the months of February and July. At the same time, we would thank everyone for their continuing contributions of seasonal clothing, toiletries, and various other needed items. Special thanks for your special offering in January, which enabled John Calvin to cover our lunch expenses for all three months!

Our December Volunteers: **Ann Trapani, Linda Lowry, Margaret Corcoran, Carolyn Calvin, James and Marilyn Brown, Amy Cardinale, Sandy Cranfill, Sharon Fortin, Sandy Fortin, Barbara Remmelts, Nancy Davis, Emily Garland, Lorraine Hicks, Gus Mullins, Sue Crawford, and Richard Britson.**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES...



Exactly 25 years ago today, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Sunday, February 7, 2016 the youth of John Calvin will be collecting monetary donations immediately following the 10:30 service. All proceeds will go to "Dianne's Pantry".

So remember to look for the BIG soup pots and give generously!



**SATURDAY, MARCH 19
10:00AM – 12:00 PM**

The C.E. committee is looking for your help with our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 19.

We need your donations of wrapped candy appropriate for young children.
NO NUTS PLEASE!

Please drop off candy donations to the church or playschool office. There will also be a collection box located in the Narthex. Donations are needed by March 16.

Join us for a fun-filled morning. We will have 5 craft stations, music and an Easter Egg Hunt along with pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Please contact Laurie Robinson @ laurie.robinson@johncalvinchurch.org for any questions.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR
SUPPORT!!**



*Thank you all for your presence and all your hard work for
" A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF!"*

Many thanks to all the youth and adult volunteers who came out to J.W. Johnson Community Garden Monday Jan.18 for a day of work and service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Thank you to Valerie Corcoran, Layne Corcoran, Kate Corcoran, Arnold Zea, Sabastain Zea, Jonathan Zea, Jonah Bassinger, Joshua Bush and Portia Robinson. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and service with others from First Presbyterian Church and Parkway Presbyterian, as well as a group of dedicated Young Adult Volunteers (YAV's) from around the presbytery.





SAVE THE DATE
Saturday
March 12, 2016

10:00AM---3:00PM

Game Booths
Student Performances
Student Artwork on Display
Zoo 2 U Petting Zoo
Silent Auction
Food & Drinks
Face Painting
A-Maze-Ing Maze

***This festival is our school's biggest fundraiser and the profits go directly into making our school better.**

Playschool News

We are WILD about learning through PLAY at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool. This month we are learning about winter, Mardi Gras, and trying to stay warm!

A COUPLE IMPORTANT PLAYSCHOOL DATES TO NOTE:

FEBRUARY 1: CHURCH MEMBER REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 8-12: MARDI GRAS HOLIDAYS

FEBRUARY 15: CURRENT STUDENTS/ SIBLINGS REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 22: ALUMNI/ WAIT LIST REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 29: OPEN REGISTRATION





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 3 - Joseph Palermo
February 5 - Mark Boan
February 6 - Ginny Thomas
February 8 - Lenny Nelson
February 9 - Mike Isham
February 12 - Travis Fish
February 14 - Brenda Morrell
February 19 - Gina Corley
February 22 - David Boan
February 23 - Julie Etland
February 24 - Richard Britson
February 24 - Gladys Lamia
February 25 - Jan Cox
February 25 - Gus Mullins
February 28 - Kathy Begg

The Worship Committee is still looking for volunteers from the congregation is assisting with the Hospitality set-up (snacks, juice, coffee), for the 10:30am Sunday Worship Service. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Danny Cain or Jeanette Spiess.

THANK YOU in advance for your participation in making our Sunday fellowship time a success!!

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 1 – P.S. Registration for Church Members

Feb. 2 – PW Coordinating Mtg @ 10am

Feb. 2 – Lydia Circle Mtg. @ 7:30pm

Feb. 2-5 – P.S. Mardi Gras Parades

Feb. 7 – Heifer Offering

Feb. 7 – Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 8-9 – Church Office Closed

Feb. 8-12 – P.S. Holidays

**Feb. 10 – Wednesday Night Live/
Ash Wednesday Service
@ 6:30pm**

Feb. 14 – Heifer Offering

Feb. 16 – Resource Mtg. @ 7:00pm

Feb, 16 – Grace Circle Mtg. @ 9:30am

Feb. 17 – WNL @ 6:00pm

Feb. 22- Session Mtg. @ 7:00pm

Feb. 24 – WNL @ 6:00pm

Easter Schedule

**Feb. 10 – Ash
Wednesday Service @
6:30pm in the
Fellowship Hall**

**Mar. 20 – Easter
Cantata @ 10:30
followed by a luncheon
in the Fellowship Hall**

**March 24 – Maundy
Thursday @ 7pm
Service in the Sanctuary**

**March 25 – Good
Friday, Sanctuary open
from 9am – 3pm**

**March 27 – Easter
Sunday**

**This is not a complete listing of March
events – More to follow.**

