

CALVIN COMMENTARY

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

APRIL 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

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

*Praise the Lord!
Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his
commandments. Their descendants will
be mighty in the land; the generation of
the upright will be blessed. Wealth and
riches are their houses, and their
righteousness endures forever. They rise
in the darkness as a light for the
upright; they are gracious, merciful, and
righteous.*
- Psalm 112:1-4

THE STUDY WINDOW

The relationship between church and society is a much discussed topic in both church and society. How does society impact the church and how does the church impact society? On one hand things that become commonly accepted in society affect the church and on the other hand the teachings of the church have a significant impact on society and its practices. Recently I read an Alban institute article about this interplay and I'm tossing out some ideas which surfaced in that article that are worthy of thought and discussion.

Strangers meet on common ground. Dare we assume that strangers bring gifts, not threats? In today's world we are taught to steer clear of strangers. Don't speak. Don't make eye contact. But it hasn't always been this way. Historically the church has been a place of hospitality where the stranger is welcomed. Dare we think of the possibility of a society ruled by the values of hospitality? Can we as a congregation develop an outward focus that trains and empowers us for this type of public life?

Scarce resources are shared and abundance is generated. We seem to live in a social order in which the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Who is there to speak for and act on another vision? Who will speak if not the children of the scriptures, the Book in which poets and prophets made it crystal clear that God has a special concern for the poor among us? Our social order speaks with fear of diminishing resources: if you get yours there is less for me. Our biblical heritage speaks of abundance not scarcity: the more you have the better I will be. Can we in the church nurture this viewpoint and bring it to the world as a whole?

Life is given color, texture, drama and a festive air. Every act of worship and every community festivity should be a laboratory in celebration of our oneness. A church on Easter Sunday, a city park on the Fourth of July, both speak of what community means and our presence involves us in that community. As individuals and as a congregation we need to engage in discussions with ourselves and with the larger community of society what it means to be community and what that community is to look like.

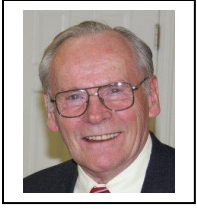
Mutual responsibility becomes evident and mutual aid possible. Many churches have a list of people to pray for - the sick, the shut-ins, the grieving. Many congregations have people who take flowers to the sick, communion to those who are home bound and who call on people in the hospital. Taking responsibility for each other is a foregone conclusion in the congregation but not in the public arena. Can congregational life be a beacon to society at the same time that it prepares us to offer these gifts of service outside the bounds and walls of the congregation?

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Harry Brown



THE MUSIC CORNER

By: William R. Memmott



From the hymnbooks of Germany (chorales) to the hymnals of England and the Americas, composers have written anthems and organ voluntaries based on the hymns of their native countries. This centuries-old tradition has been the mainstay of music written for Christian worship. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" to mention two.

John Calvin and others were responsible for our own reformed tradition version in the Psalters (Genevan and otherwise). "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" and "Turn Back O Man" to mention two.

In America who has not thrilled at settings of "It Is Well with My Soul" and "Amazing Grace," and the more contemporary "Come, Praise the Lord with Me" or "There Is Power in the Blood."

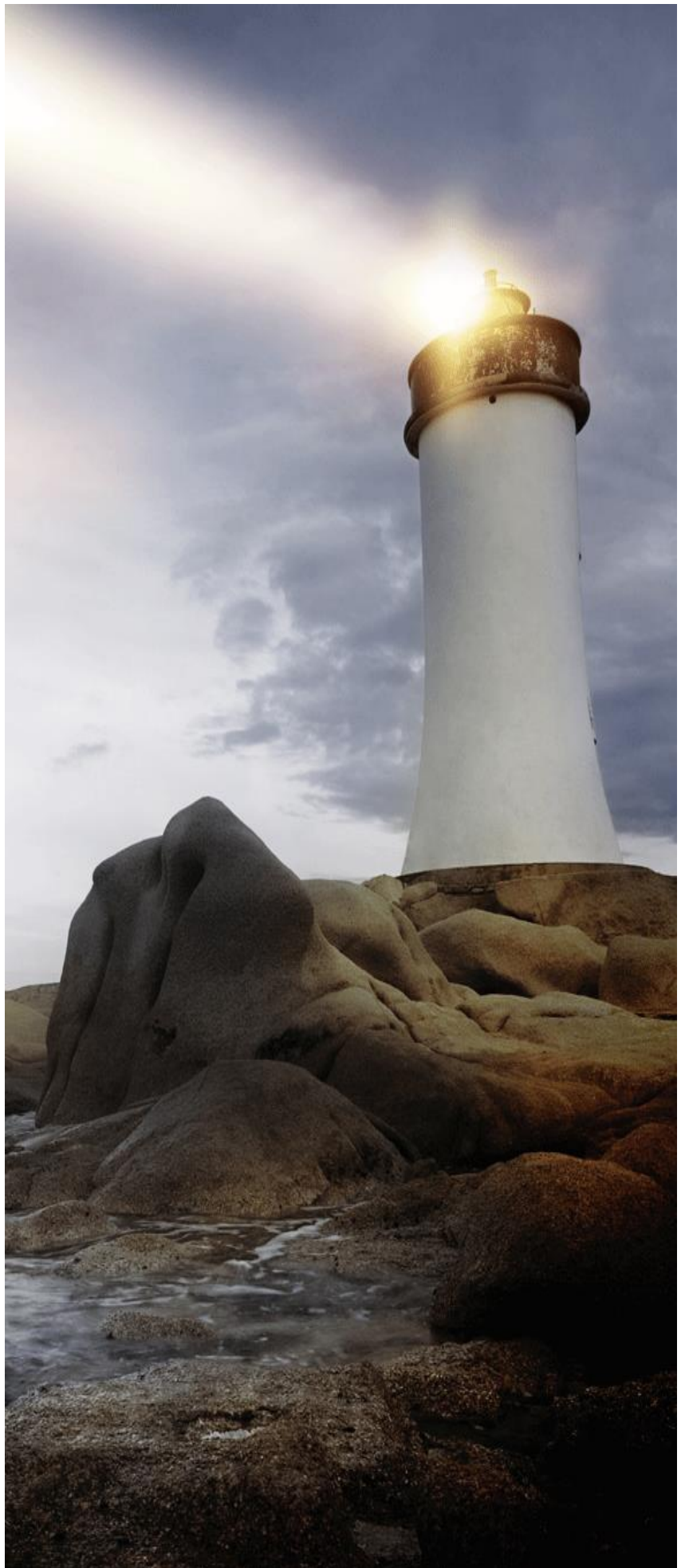
A SEASON OF HYMN-ANTHEMS

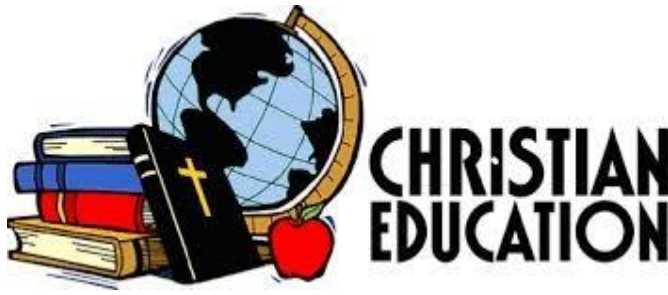
To celebrate this great tradition, the choir will be singing A Season of Hymn-Anthems following Easter until the end of the summer. I'm sure you will feel like singing along (so do it if you are so inclined).

We also celebrate the fine work of the choir in singing the Mendelssohn cantata on Palm Sunday. And, there are not enough superlatives to mark the work of Jan Cox over the years at the keyboards of JCPC. As she retires after Easter we wish her the very best. "Hurry back when you can!" Julie Etland will succeed her.

A reminder: we have lost a number of singers in recent times. If you sing, consider seriously joining our ranks on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. Your "stewardship of singing" will be much appreciated.

SOLI DEO GLORIA





Laurie Robinson – C.E. Leader

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who came out Saturday, March 19 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt! In spite of inclement weather and an indoor Easter Egg Hunt, we had a wonderful turnout. Sheryl Wise, Chairperson of the Playschool Committee, was our greeter and reported only positive comments from our Playschool parents, and their gratitude for church sponsored events.

We are only able to host these events with the help and service of you, our volunteers. So once again, THANK YOU! from the bottom of our Christian Education hearts, for your time and service to our children and community. You are wonderful!

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. *Hebrews, 6:10*

SAVE THE DATES:

May 22: Children's/Youth Worship Service, 10:30am. Please RSVP Laurie Robinson if you will be participating. CE office 504-888-1375 or Cell 504-344-9079. This is also the service where the church celebrates Teacher Appreciation/Recognition for our dedicated Sunday School and Little Lambs volunteers. Immediately following the service, we will have our annual cook out (Fellowship Hall) and water slide. Come join us for a beautiful service and food and fun afterwards!

July 10-14: Mo Ranch Jr. High Jubilee, Sneak peak, check out the following link:

<https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/conferences-for-youth-young-adults/junior-high-jubilee/>

The CE Committee and Reverend Harry are putting together a youth trip for our T'ween group (6th-8th graders). We will be participating with other churches in the Presbytery. Please contact Reverend Harry or Laurie Robinson for more information.



July 25-29: Vacation Bible School, "Cave Quest, Following Jesus, The Light of the World".

Registration forms available in both the church and playschool offices for:

3 yrs. old (potty-trained)-8 yrs. old (entering 3rd grade).

We are also currently signing up adult volunteers and youth volunteers seeking service hours.

Please call Laurie @ 504-888-1375.

Please come and join us for a fun-filled week!



Welcome

Mrs. Julie Etland is our new Accompanist and we're blessed by your talents!

Julie is an attorney, and a recent federal government retiree with over 31 years' experience. She spent more than 20 years as a federal law enforcement agent, and three additional years as a special prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office. She currently runs a home-based law enforcement consulting business.

Julie has been a Christian for over 45 years, and loves being a mother to her 10-year-old son, Ethan, who attends John Calvin with her. They both fell in love with John Calvin when Ethan attended the preschool here. Julie is married to a retired Louisiana State Trooper, Brian, and she and her husband enjoy do-it-yourself projects around their home and yard. Julie studied piano for over 15 years, and has continued to play throughout her life. She is very excited to be a part of the music program at John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Exciting News

The new stained glass windows will be installed shortly after Easter and will be **dedicated on April 17 at the 10:30 Worship Service**. When the Session approved the windows nine of them were approved as memorials and one panel was to be dedicated to the glory of God by the Congregation. The intent was that anyone in the congregation wishing to participate in the project could contribute to offset the cost of this window. That fund is open and donations are being received. The cost of that window is \$2500.

Presbyterian Women Meeting Schedule

P.W. Coordinating Team – Tuesday, Apr. 5 @ 10am

Lydia Circle – Tuesday, Apr. 12th @ 7pm

Grace Circle – Tuesday, Apr. 19th @ 9:30pm

All women are welcome to attend either circle

JCPC is sponsoring a presentation on



Living Waters for the World

Thursday, April 14

7:00 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Living Waters for the World (LWW) is a mission of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that trains and equips volunteer teams to provide clean water in needy areas throughout the developing world. LWW water systems and educational programs address the contamination problem for communities that have adequate and available water, but where that available water is contaminated.

Our Presbyterian Women's Circles are enjoying a study called "Come to the Waters", Biblical stories of water. The ladies are reminded of the many references to the importance of water throughout the Bible and are discussing water availability and use issues.

Right here in our community, a group is conducting a Living Waters of the World Project through PCUSA. On Thursday, April 14, we will have two quest speakers come talk to us about their project. It is a wonderful presentation you will enjoy.

In addition, our own, Synod of the Sun has a sister project to design and install solar power systems in communities that lack reliable electrical power. We will review a short presentation on this project as well.

Since the Living Waters system requires electricity, the Solar Under the Sun system is often installed simultaneously.

Who knew we were doing so many things to help our fellow humans? Come and learn!

Coffee and goodies will be served!





6601 Veterans Blvd., Metairie

Tablecloth Dinner

Thursday, April 7th

\$28.00 per person (tax & tip included)

Cocktails (cash bar) begins at 6:30pm

Dinner is at 7:00pm

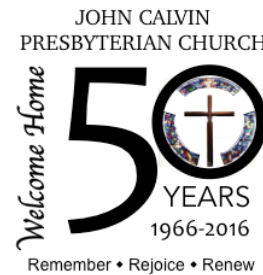
Please make checks payable to: Joe Palermo

Join us for a time of food, friends and fellowship!

*If you signed up and need to cancel, please contact
either Joe Palermo or Sandy Cranfill.*

50 years ago... did you know?

Fifty years ago when a group of Presbyterians got together to form this new church. They purchased land, and began organizing. But how do you find the people for a new church in a brand new, growing community? The area was expanding with contractors building speculative houses, and corporations were transferring in people from all over the country. Many of the new people moving into the area were Presbyterian from previous affiliation.



Early in 1966 the search began for “lost” Presbyterians. A door-to-door and neighbor-to-neighbor evangelism began! The story goes that Kate Franklin opened the door to a man searching for “lost” Presbyterians. When asked, “Do you have any?”, she replied, “Well, I’m not, but there’s one sitting on his duff in the back room!”. Kate and her husband Ray become two of the earliest members. Kate served on the first pastor nominating committee!

Worship began in local homes, then moved to the Bissonet-Maned Downs clubhouse, a hub of community communication. As the small congregation began to grow, the Presbytery felt that a more permanent place was needed and installed a double-wide trailer on the newly purchased property on the corner of Transcontinental and Glendale streets. It was a specially built trailer with detachable pieces. When set up, the floor space tripled to seat just over 100 people on folding chairs....sitting very close to one another.

The first worship service in the trailer was held on Palm Sunday, April 3rd, 1966, accompanied by a small electronic organ.

What happened next? Who was the Pastor? How long did we stay in the trailer? Stay tuned for next month’s installment on the history of John Calvin Presbyterian Church as we continue the celebration of 50 years serving Christ.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

APRIL 6 – LOGAN LAPORTE
APRIL 9 – CHUCK CORCORAN
APRIL 16 – WILLIAM R. MEMMOTT
APRIL 20 – DEBBIE RUSSO
APRIL 23 – BROOKS FROST
APRIL 25 – MARY ANTILL
APRIL 25 – CHRISTINA THOMAS
APRIL 26 – LINDA LAPORTE
APRIL 27 – CAROL FOURMAUX

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7th – Tablecloth Dinner – 6:30pm @ Sandro's

April 14th – Living Waters for the World @ 7:00pm

**April 17th – Stained Glass Window Dedication
during 10:30am Worship Service**

October 9th – 50 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!