

CALVIN COMMENTARY



JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2018

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From



The Study Window



Salvation

As we approach Easter it is particularly appropriate that we turn our thoughts to the salvation that comes to us in Christ. Indeed, in the classic watch words of the reformation, we are saved by grace through faith. The scriptures have many images of how our salvation is brought about in the work of Christ. The various images shed light on this profound holy mystery. One view sees our predicament as a subjective sense of guilt for our sin that causes us to hide from God. Salvation happens as God's love, which has already forgiven us, is manifest in Christ. Our hearts are stirred to repentance and a response of love. A second model draws upon the imagery of the Jewish sacrificial system. Here the priest is seen as the mediator between God and humanity, offering sacrifices to atone for sin. In this model Christ is presented as our great high priest who lays down his life as a sacrifice on our behalf.

A third model draws upon military imagery. God and the devil are locked in combat over the destiny of humankind. In Christ's death on the cross, the devil appears to win but in the resurrection, Christ is victorious over the forces of evil. A financial model is also used to explain what God has done for us in Christ's life and death and resurrection. Our sin is a debt we cannot pay and as a result we are in a debtor's prison. We cannot pay our debt and can't be released until we do. Christ offers his life for us and pays the debt. Yet another model is the judicial model. God is the judge and human beings are the law breakers and the verdict is guilty and the sentence is death. But as a righteous person Christ stands in our defense and offers himself as a substitute for us and takes our punishment upon himself.

In classic reformed theology, unbelief is the root of sin and it follows that faith is the focus of Gods' saving activity. Faith is God's gift to us. For Calvin, faith is engendered in us by God's Word and Spirit and the Spirit works to renew our relationship to God. He insists that faith precedes repentance that repentance is in fact a consequence of faith. Because we have received the grace of God and the promise of salvation we are moved and enabled to repent. Salvation is not a matter of bringing external influences to bear in order to change God's mind about us. Faith is a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence toward us. This knowledge provides a confidence and security that frees us from living for ourselves. We no longer have to justify ourselves because we know we have been justified by God and rest secure in his grace and forgiveness.

Not only are we justified we are also sanctified. We experience a double grace of reconciliation and regeneration. In true repentance what happens is a mortification of the flesh, a dying to self and the receiving of the gift of New Life in which the Spirit restores the image of God that has been disfigured within us. Justification leads to the doing of good works.

Calvin did not see sanctification as a state of sinless perfection but a process in which our hearts, mind, and wills come more and more closely into agreement with God's will for our lives. In this sense salvation means not only that we will enter heaven when we die; it means that we are freed here and now in this life to live as who we are created to be. In God forgiveness, in being justified and sanctified, we are set free to live for God and others. Glory be to God for this incredible life changing gift.

In Christ's Service

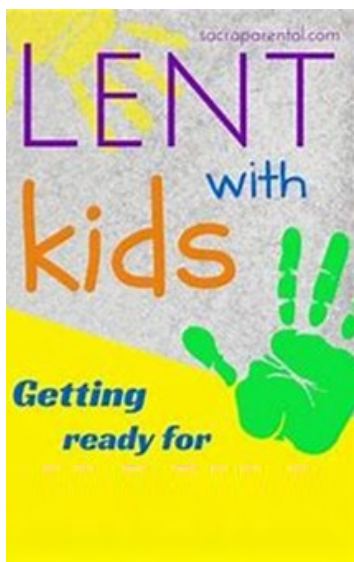
Rev. Harry Brown

Wednesday Night Lenten Worship



**HORS-D'OEUVRES AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE
CHURCH NARTHEX AT 6:00**

WORSHIP AT 6:30 IN THE SANCTUARY



Children are welcome to join CE Leader Julie Hebert for a special Lent class on Wednesdays at 6:30-7:00 in the Library. The class will be fun with a craft and lesson on Lent.



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By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master

FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

Palm Sunday, March 25, is early this year. Our featured Palm Sunday Concert will be "The Crucifixion" by Sir John Stainer (1840-1901). Written in 1887, "The Crucifixion" stands as the premiere Lenten cantata of the 19th century. Beginning as a chorister at St. Paul Cathedral in London, Stainer rose to become organist/choir master and a celebrated composer of his time.

No Lenten cantata has been performed as much as "The Crucifixion." It continues to be performed yearly by churches around the world. In the center of the work is his setting of "God so loved the world." It is sung unaccompanied. It is familiar to most church goers. The remainder of the work has traditionally been accompanied by piano or organ. In 2003 Craig Hawkins finally orchestrated the piece. We shall use his orchestration (a first for New Orleans)-with an ensemble from the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Our own soloists will be singing: Sandy Cranfill - soprano; Sharon Fortin- soprano; Kelly Kron - alto; Ron Palmisano - bass; and guest David Bloom - tenor. Julie Etland on the keyboards and William R. Memmott conducting.

Please invite family and friends for this outstanding offering in worship -- 10:30 A.M.. A luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall following the concert.

"Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" - Ephesians 5:19-20

SOLI DEO GLORIA



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader

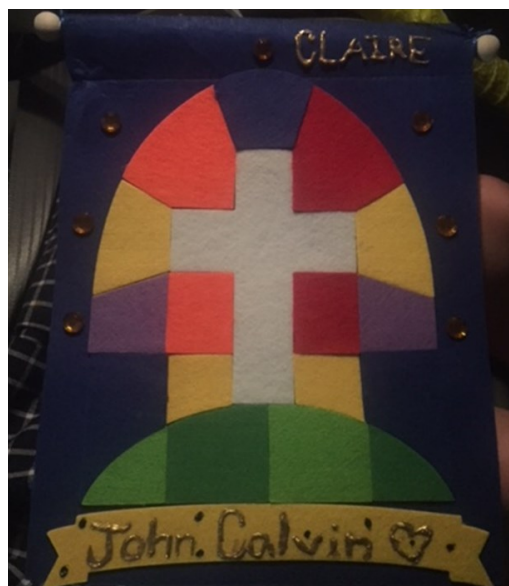
THE YOUTH CORNER



On February 4th the youth collected \$304.00 for Souper Bowl for caring. This money will go towards Diane's Pantry which helps the church supply food and gas cards to those in need that come into the church for help.

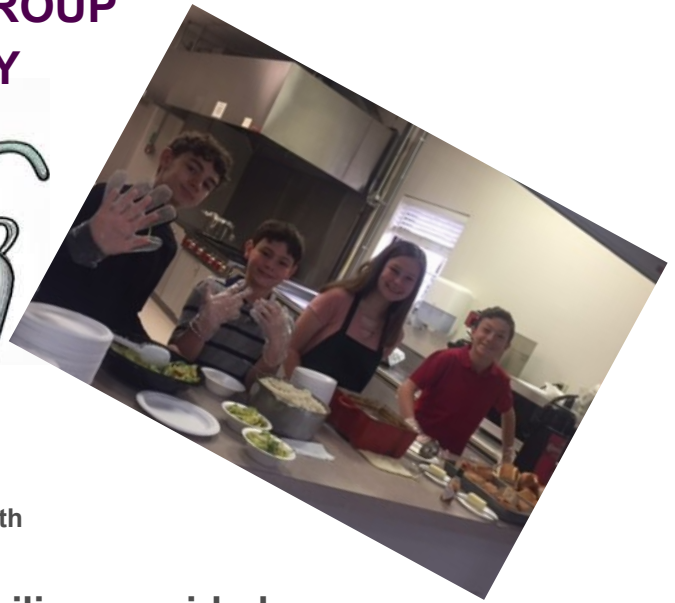
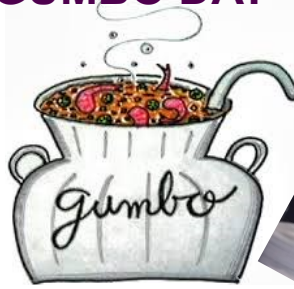
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Lent has arrived and the children are learning so much in the lent classes on Wednesday nights. They are enjoying working on a craft while learning the meaning of the lent season and discussing different ways to strengthen their relationship with God. This class will continue through March 21st.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JCPC YOUTH GROUP GUMBO DAY



February 25th

The youth and their families provided a Gumbo lunch to the congregation. I was so proud of the children that helped set-up and serve the food. They also cleaned-up and did dishes. This was a great event. Special thanks to the Hebert's, Moore's, Corcoran's, Robinson's, Laurell, and the Russo's for supplying the food and drinks.



UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS:

March 17th John Calvin Art and Fun Festival

March 24th Easter Egg Hunt 10:00-noon

TABLE CLOTH DINNER

TABLE CLOTH DINNER

AUGIE's
restaurant

6005 Jefferson Hwy.

Harahan, LA 70123

March 8, 2018

\$23.00

Includes Tax and Tip

*House Salad with House Dressing
Homemade Bread Pudding & Rum Sauce for Dessert
Iced Tea*

Catfish Pecan

Fresh Filet of Catfish, fried to a Crispy Golden Brown, topped with a White Wine Butter Pecan Sauce, served with Potatoes & a Vegetable Medley

Veal Parmesan

*Fresh Panned Baby Veal,
Topped with Melted Mozzarella Cheese,
Served with Angel Hair Pasta & Marinara Sauce*

Chicken St. John

*Freshly Baked Boneless Breast of Chicken,
Topped with a Creamy Shrimp Sauce,
Served with Potatoes and a Vegetable Medley*

Catfish Lafitte

Fresh Filet of Catfish, fried to a Crispy Golden Brown, topped with a Creamy Catfish Sauce, served with Potatoes & a Vegetable Medley

Social @ 6:30 / Dinner @ 7:00

Make checks payable to Ernestine Price



START THE ADVENTURE IN READING



Every Monday and Wednesday during the school year, 5 second graders from Alice Birney Elementary School bounce into the John Calvin Fellowship Hall to work on their reading skills. After 5 minutes of outside play time and a healthy snack, the second graders and their volunteer tutors read...then read more...then keep reading.

STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading) has been a fixture at John Calvin for the past ____ years. One-on-one attention from a volunteer tutor and lessons that are fun as well as fundamental have led “at risk” readers to find enjoyment in reading. Feedback from their teachers and parents, as well as improvement on standardized test, speak for the effectiveness of the program.

The John Calvin program is coordinated by Melinda Early and Richard Britson. John Calvin tutors include Sue Crawford, Sandy Cranfield, Jananne Lankard, and Linda Lowry. STAIR is just another example of how John Calvin Presbyterian Church is enriching the community.

Another good story...

The flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday are beautiful. Have you noticed? Each week there is a new arrangement of beautiful flowers: sometimes pastels, sometimes whites, sometimes bright, vivid colors, sometimes huge flowers, sometimes small flowers in groupings, but always beautiful and always something to enjoy.

Much of the time the flowers are taken by the family that donated them, but if the family doesn't take them, what happens to them? The Congregational Life Committee sponsors a team of people who take these flowers to people who may need something to brighten their lives. Each week a member of this team comes to the church to figure out what they might be able to do with the flowers. Sometimes the larger arrangements are broken up into smaller bunches to take to more than one person; sometimes the grouping is just so beautiful the whole thing is taken to one family.

Generally Rev. Harry and Eleanor are consulted as to who might have the greatest need for this little bit of cheering up. This is a wonderful ministry for someone relatively new to the congregation. They get to meet so many different people!

Recently, it was Ann Trapani's turn to take care of the flowers. Neither Rev. Harry nor Eleanor were available to help determine who might get them and Ann didn't know who to take them to that week. Who could use a bit of cheer? Did she know of anyone? What about the Independent Living facility that her dad stayed at? You remember Gunner Peterson, Ann's father? He had such wonderful stories about his life, and especially his experience in WWII, ready for anyone who would listen. He had lived at Nouveau Marc, in Kenner for 10 months prior to his passing in March of 2016. Ann hadn't been to visit the place since her dad's passing. Wouldn't it be a great place to take the flowers?

As Ann walked into the facility she was greeted by a host of familiar faces! A few remembered her and a few remembered her dad. Ann found a wonderful lady called "Miss Rose", whom she remembered visiting with often when visiting her father. Spending some time talking with Miss Rose, Ann learned that she had been living at Nouveau Marc for seven years after losing 2 children to cancer and her husband to a heart attack. She didn't have many visitors. What a blessing to have a familiar face take the time to listen for a bit! After leaving the flowers at the front desk for everyone to enjoy, and greeting another couple that remembered her dad, Ann escorted Miss Rose to the activity room for Bingo. What a joy to spend time with people from that generation.

What a wonderful day! It's funny how sometimes God leads you to those places you need to be.

Would you be interested in being a part of this team? If so, contact Barbara Remmelts at 504-454-0784.

Interested in donating the Sunday flowers? There is a signup poster in the narthex. See which dates are available and sign up for the ones you want.

Thank you John Calvin Presbyterian Church for sponsoring another wonderful ministry in this team of dedicated individuals who put our Sunday flowers to further use. It ends up to be a blessing every week – for the recipient, but also for the person taking them around!

...Thank you

Angels Across the USA Tour



Alan Pederson

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS HOST EVENT AT JOHN CALVIN

On Saturday, February 7, *The Compassionate Friends (TCF)* hosted an evening with Alan Pederson and Mitch Carmody in our Fellowship Hall. Mr. Pederson is a singer/song writer, who lost his daughter – his music provides support to bereaved parents and family who have lost a child. For years these two gentlemen have provided live presentations each year at hundreds of locations around the country – travelling in the “Angel Van” with their *Angels Across the USA Tour*.

The Saturday event was sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Chapter of *TCF*. The Compassionate Friends’ webpage provides an array of information. Some of the support noted: online support, chats with other bereaved family members (including parents, grandparents, siblings); regional and national workshops and conferences; a national magazine; listings of recommended reading/materials; listing of local chapters.

The *TCF of Greater New Orleans* – phone: 265-0581, tcfnola@gmail.com. It meets at EJB Conference Center, Esplanade 2 -- the 2nd Monday of each month.

JOHN CALVIN CHOSEN AS CONVENTION SITE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JOHN CALVIN HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE LOUISIANA FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS (LFMC) AS ITS CONVENTION SITE - APRIL 6, 7. THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS (NFMC) IS ONE OF THE OLDEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, FOCUSING ON PROMOTING MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY, MUSICAL EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES, AND FACILITATING MUSICAL COMPETITIONS. THE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES MANY PIANO, STRINGS, AND VOICE TEACHERS, AS WELL, AS-SIMPLY, PEOPLE WHO LOVE MUSIC!

AFTER A BUSINESS MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 6TH (CHURCH LIBRARY), MUSICAL PERFORMANCES WILL BE PRESENTED IN TWO SESSIONS ON APRIL 7TH—THREE (3) IN THE MORNING, WHILE THE **HAPPY DOG DUO** (CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE), WINNERS OF THE NFMC ELLIS DUO COMPETITION (BIENNIAL NATIONAL COMPETITION) AND A PRIZE OF \$20,000, WILL ENTERTAIN WITH DUO PIANO DUETS IN THE AFTERNOON. ALL PERFORMANCES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SANCTUARY. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW AS THEY DEVELOP.

FOR THEIR KIND CONSIDERATION AND GUIDANCE, WE THANK:

MRS. GWEN REDDING, LFMC PESIDENT; MARY MONSTED, METAIRIE MUSIC CLUB PRESIDENT; AND, MELANIE PEREZ, LFMC PAST PRESIDENT, AND NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER.



Snippets

From Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women would like to invite all women of the church to the annual "end of the year" celebration dinner. As usual, we will share a meal and fellowship at Cafe East. This year's celebration will take place on May 1st at 6:30 P.M. The cost is usually about \$15.00. We hope that all women can attend, so please save the date!

IT'S A FUN TIME



Saturday, March 17th

You may know this as St. Patrick's Day, but this year at John Calvin, we call it the Playschool's Art & Fun Festival Day. From 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM you can bid on silent auction items, eat the Russo's delicious jambalaya, or Popeye's red beans and rice or Joe Palmero's famous hamburgers and hot dogs! Mary Antill and Beverly Ross will roll you fresh cotton candy and Barbara Taylor and Dennis Price will tease you with the wonderful smell of popcorn.

If you're thirsty, Jeremy Moore and John LaPorte have plenty of water, soft drinks and juice cups, then for dessert, visit Barbara McHan and Carolyn Calvin at the sweet booth.

Bring your children or grandchildren or just watch the Playschool children as Sophia Hill paints faces, the children play games and win prizes or they follow the maze and obstacle course and venture off to the smell of farm animals at the petting zoo.

Come by and see for yourself! Admission is free as is the joy of family time and eager little children's voices!

Playschool News

We are **WILD** about learning through **PLAY** at John Calvin Presbyterian Playschool.

Thank you for your help and support of our upcoming biggest fundraiser-- our Art & Fun Festival!! It is greatly appreciated:)

MARCH 17: ART & FUN FESTIVAL FROM 10-3

Our Art & Fun Festival is just around the corner and we need your help finding some sponsors...

We are looking for several **Game Booth Sponsors**. For a donation of **\$25**, game booth sponsors will have a sign posted by the game and in Fellowship Hall with their company's name and a small write-up in the school-wide fair thank you letter.

We are seeking sponsors for the petting zoo, maze, and the inflatable obstacle course.



These sponsorships are **\$150** each, and this sponsorship will include a sign with the company's name and contact information by the activity and in Fellowship Hall, a larger write-up in the school-wide fair thank you letter, and **1** activity band for unlimited entrance into all 3 activities.

Sponsorships don't have to be companies, and can also be done by a family (for example: The Jones Family or We Love You, Grace!). Please come visit us in the office if you have any questions or just fill out the flyer, attach a business card, and bring it to the office with a check for the sponsorship fee by **March 2**.

*As always, **THANK YOU** for your support!!*

John Calvin Playschool's Art & Fun Festival

Saturday, March 17, 2018

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Do you own a company or are you looking for a great advertising opportunity?

(Sponsors can be companies or families)

For a donation of \$25, you can be a Game Booth sponsor

For a donation of \$150, you can sponsor the petting zoo, maze, & obstacle course.



I would like to sponsor a : _____ Game booth (\$25) _____ Petting zoo/maze (\$150)

Sponsor's name: _____

Contact information (telephone or email): _____

Fill out the information above and attach a business card or the wording you would like to be included on the sponsor sign (Ex. The Jones Family or We love you Grace!), Include a check with the sponsorship fee & turn in to the church office.

Buy Tickets early and get a bargain!

The Playschool's Art & Fun Festival has games, activities, a silent auction and plenty of good food! Tickets (not cash) are used for everything except the auction. Come by and place a bid and enjoy the food and fun!



You can get \$6 worth of tickets for \$5 if you buy in advance. You can buy an activity band for your child that gives him/her unlimited access to the petting zoo, maze, & obstacle course.

Your Name: _____

Number of packs of discounted pre-sale tickets: _____ x \$5/pack = \$ _____ Total

Number of discounted pre-sale activity bands: _____ x \$21 each = \$ _____ Total

Fill out the information above, attach a check and turn it into the church office.

Be part of the Fun!

Consider joining us on Saturday. If you can volunteer for an hour or two you'd be a great help & you'll have fun working with us. Tell us what you are interested in & we will call or email you to schedule times convenient to you.

Your name: _____ Contact info: _____

I would like to help with (check 1 or more):

_____ set up or take down

_____ kitchen work

_____ sweet booth

_____ ticket booth

_____ drink booth

_____ face painting

_____ cotton candy

_____ popcorn

_____ silent auction

_____ hamburger / hot dog booth



Fill out the form above and turn it in to the church office. Or email Linda Lowry at llowry321@gmail.com.



MARCH



BIRTHDAYS

Hebert, Joshua 03/02

Prince, Alex 03/19

Crawford, Sue 03/02

Bone, Benjamin 03/21

Crawford, Andrew 03/06

Fish, Brian 03/24

Lauland, Megan 03/06

Mundell, Lee 03/25

Fish, Jr., Brian 03/13

Ross, Beverly 03/28

Davis, Caleb 03/14

Marler, Ron 03/30

Laporte, Kelly 03/18

Perret, Carson 03/31

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



March

April

- 1st: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 2nd: World Day of Prayer
- 5th: Worship CM @ 5:30p (CR)
- 6th: PW Council Mtg @ 10:00 (Lbry)
- 7th: Wednesday Night Live:Hors-D'oeuvres@6p/Worship@6:30
- 8th: **AUGIE's** restaurant Table Cloth Dinner @ Augie's Restaurant @ 6:30p
- 11th: Daylight Savings Time 
>C/E CM after Worship
- 12th: P/S CM @ noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 13th: Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 14th: Wednesday Night Live:Hors-D'oeuvres@6p/Worship@6:30
- 15th: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 16th: P/S Art & Fun Fest Set-Up
- 17th: St. Patrick's Day 
>P/S Art & Fun Festival 10:00am-3:00p
- 18th: ****Special Congregational Mtg after 10:30 Worship****
- 19th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Libry)
- 20th: Spring Begins 
>Grace Circle CM @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 21st: Wednesday Night Live:Hors-D'oeuvres@6p/Worship@6:30
- 24th: CE Easter Egg Hunt @ FH 10:00a 
Cantata Dress Rehearsal/Lunch Set-up
- 25th: Palm Sunday Cantata & Luncheon
10:30 Worship Service Only
- 28th-Apr 6th: P/S Easter Break Begins
- 29th: Maundy Thursday 7:00p Service
- 30th: Good Friday 9:00-2:00p Prayer & Meditation

Note: Committee Mtg. time changes may not be reflected,
above times are based on a reoccurring schedule only.

- 1st: Easter Sunday & April Fools Day 
- 2nd: Church Office Closed—Easter Holiday 
>Worship CM @ 5:30p (CR)
- 3rd: PW CM 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 5th: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 6th: Music Association Business Mtg (Lbry) **-2-6p-Rntl**
- 7th: Music Association Event (Sanc & FH) **-8a-5p-Rntl**
- 8th: C/E CM after Worship
- 9th: P/S School Resumes from Easter Break
>P/S CM @ noon
>Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 10th: Lydia Circle @ 7:00p (Lbry)
>Resource @ 7:00p (CR)
- 11th: P/S Summer Camp Registration Begins
- 13th: P/S Book Fair set-up
- 16th: Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 16th-20th: P/S Grandparents Wk & Scholastic Bk Fair (FH)
- 17th: Grace Circle @ 9:30 (Lbry)
- 19th: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 21st: PW Spring Gathering @ St. Charles
- 22nd: Earth Day 
- 23rd-27th: P/S Teacher Appreciation Week **THANKS** 
- 25th: Administrative Day
- 28th: CE @ 2nd Harvest Day
- 30th: Pastor Harry's Last Day 

We'll miss you!

Note: Committee Mtg. time changes may not be reflected,
above times are based on a reoccurring schedule only.

John Calvin Presbyterian Church



“Freed by the Fire, Renewed by the Flood, and Empowered by the Spirit”

Stewardship Pledges

If you need confirmation on your 2018
pledge, please contact the church office:

(504) 888-1375