

CALVIN COMMENTARY

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2018

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From



The Study Window

Laurell and I have been richly blessed in our time with you and we thank you for the opportunity to share life and ministry with you. It has been a privilege and an honor and we pray that you might know God's richest blessings as you move into your future as a congregation. You are very dear to us and will always be held in our hearts and prayers.

As we move into retirement, all of our roles are shifting. I am moving from being pastor/friend to learning to be simply a friend. For your part, you need to stop seeing me as your pastor and learn to relate to me simply as a friend. You need to be moving into a new future as a congregation and I need to be moving into a new future as a retired pastor.

One of the hardest parts of retirement and the dissolution of the pastoral relationship for both you and I is the necessity to really stop offering or asking for pastoral services. This is especially the case for weddings, funerals, baptisms, hospital calls and counseling. Because such occasions have been so integral to our life together over the years, it is tempting to assume that there would be no harm for me, if asked to come back and provide such services.

However, long experience in countless congregations makes clear this is not the case. Real damage is done when former pastors return to perform such services because it delays, confuses and even undermines the bonding that should rightfully occur between the members of the congregation and the new pastor.

I am sure you will agree with me that forming a good strong, relationship with your future pastor deserves the very best each of us can offer. And that very best surely includes a commitment from you and me not to ask for, nor to offer such services.

I am deeply grateful that our faith makes it possible for us to accept the closure of one ministry and beginning of another with positive feeling. In the words of others, we are but the actors in God's grand drama of redemption. And even though we come on stage or leave, the Author remains unchanged and eternal. And that is what really matters.

Again, our ongoing prayer for you as you enter this new chapter in the ministry and mission of John Calvin Presbyterian Church is that you will know and live out God's richest blessings.

In Christ's Service

Rev. Harry Brown

Harry is gone. We wish him well, but...



The process we need to follow to call a new pastor has three parts.

1. First we need to call an Interim Pastor. This person will do essentially the same things Harry has done, but will, in addition, help guide us through a time of discernment to prepare for our new pastor.

2. We will work with the Interim to understand who we are, who we want to be, and what we are looking for in a new pastor. This is like creating a “resume” of the church to show to possible pastor candidates to see if we are the kind of church they want to work with.

3. Finally, we will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to do the work of finding and interviewing candidates, and ultimately selecting one for the congregation to approve.

This process will take a while: the norm is 2 to 3 years. On the bright side, we took less than 2 to call Harry, and...fortunately...we have already started!

The session has put together a selection team to find us an Interim Pastor, and they have already started the work. The Interim Selection Team is comprised of Session members Sharon Fortin, Julie Etland, Beverly Ross, Richard Britson, and Tony Hill, with the support of Bill Bottomley, Clerk of Session and David Garland, Treasurer.

This team has developed the information for a “Ministerial Information Form” which describes our congregation and specifies the kind of person we are looking for in an Interim Pastor – a much shorter, simpler version of the information we all will be involved in developing for the new pastor search. This form has already been reviewed by Presbytery and will be put into “the system” very soon. Think of it almost like a dating site – we describe who we are and what we are looking for, prospective Interim Pastors do the same and hopefully we have a few matches we can look at!

In the meantime, the Worship Committee has done a fantastic job setting up people to preach each Sunday, with a few special Sunday’s with special worship services being developed. The Outreach Committee has a team in place to provide for Pastoral Care needs, as well. As Harry beseeched us in his last sermon, we need to support each other through this process: patience and love are needed in abundance!

What can you do? In a word, pray. Pray for our church: that we find the path our Lord wants us to take. Pray for the process: that we keep our minds ready and open to where God leads us. And please pray for the Interim Search Team: that we find the right person to guide our congregation through the process to a successful selection of John Calvin Presbyterian Church’s 3rd Pastor.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT BE HAVING AN 8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE, UNTIL AN INTERIM PASTOR IS IN PLACE**

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By: William R. Memmott, Organist/Choir Master

FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

As we enjoy the guest preachers, the Worship Committee has scheduled something special for Sunday, May 27. This worship experience will be similar to the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols. This time, however, we will have lessons from the Book of Revelation and hymns sung by congregation and choir. These will all be familiar hymns, commenting on the scripture lesson that was just read. Let us sing out Revelation!

As we have bid a fond farewell to Laurell Brown, we have lost a faithful soprano. And Sandy Cranfill will be "on holiday" for much of the summer.... So: "Help!" We need sopranos. That leaves Sharon Fortin with some help from Nancy Jacobs (and an occasional alto switching over to soprano). It's a good time to jump on in. We'll also be looking at the Christmas Cantata by Mark Hayes: "Let Heaven and Nature Sing Gloria." You'll enjoy!!! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings during May and June, and sing on Sundays until the end of July.

SOLI DEO GLORIA



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By: Julie R. Hebert/Christian Education Leader



THE YOUTH CORNER

April has been dedicated to reflecting on our very wonderful memories with Reverend Harry and Mrs. Laurell. The children have worked on cards for them during Sunday school and we also have a special gift to present them at their reception. During Sunday school we have had many wonderful conversations that have brought the children closer to Christ. The children enjoyed a scavenger hunt on Easter morning during Sunday school. They also enjoyed doing crafts and eating Alaskan ice-cream made by Mrs. Cynthia.

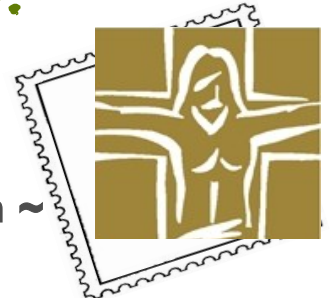
On April 28th the youth will be going to Second Harvest to volunteer packaging food. This is always a great event for the children to volunteer for our community.



UPCOMING YOUTH CORNER EVENTS:

~ May 13th CE Youth Service ~

~ May 20th End of year Sunday School Bash ~



Youth Trips and Program of Hope



WHEN: Friday, **June 1st** and Saturday, **June 2nd**

WHERE: Items will be accepted in the fellowship hall
starting May 21st

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We need your help before the sale with Donations, Setting up tables, sorting items and pricing

We need your help the day of the sale with selling, security, cashiers, straightening up, re-sorting, packing up and clean up.

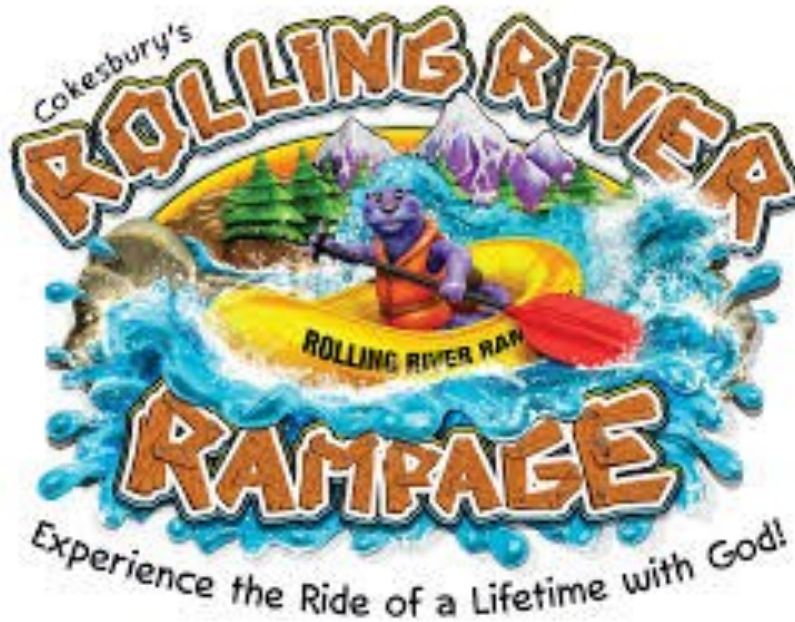
Proceeds will be split 50/50 Between youth summer trips and Program of Hope.

Please contact: Julie Hebert 504-888-1375

**John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Vacation Bible School
July 23-27, 2018**

9:00-Noon

Ages 3(by 1/1/17 and potty-trained) – Age 10



You may register online at

<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/johncalvinpresbyterianchurch>

Fees: \$30.00 Church Members_____ \$35.00 Non-Members_____

Child's Name_____Child's gender_____

Child's Age_____ Date of birth_____

JCPC Playschool Student _____ Grade completed_____

Mother's Name _____ Cell#_____

Father's Name _____ Cell#_____

Address_____

Email Address_____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone:_____ Relationship to child:_____

Interested in volunteering...please contact: Julie Hebert 504-888-1375

MUSIC CLUB EVENT AT JOHN CALVIN

It is with a touch of sadness that we mark the conclusion of the 90th annual convention of the Louisiana Federation of Music Clubs (LFMC). The event – April 6, 7 – at John Calvin - was a HUGE success. John Calvin's wonderful facilities once again generated praise all through the program of events. It all began with a business meeting of the LFMC in our church library on the evening of the 6th (coffee provided courtesy of JCPC), followed by coffee (again provided) and refreshments in the early morning of the 7th, as the musical program began in the Sanctuary - continuing until lunch, which was offered in our Fellowship Hall. There, the lunchoneers enjoyed ensemble vocals of the Mardi gras Chorus, a group of dedicated senior men, who support the community (e.g. retirement homes). Particularly note-worthy was their rendition of "When I'm 64" (highly appropriate).

Before moving on, a word about the performances of world class guitarist, Steve Masakowski, and former director of vocal studies at Tulane, and regular Tulane Summer Lyric performer, Rita Lovett. Beyond their musical performances, each provided informative content – clearly in the spirit of the LFMC's stated mission to promote musical education. At the same time, it was a special pleasure to visit with Jan Cox, who accompanied Ms. Lovett on the piano.

The marquee event in the afternoon – the award winning *Happy Dog Duo* (from St. Francisco), required a second piano. The facing pianos, centered before the chancellery, was a sanctuary first, and a sight to behold. The Duo did not disappoint - their rapid-fire finger work was awe-inspiring. As with the other performances, their appearance included an educational component – a master class for students.



****Note on the close-up photo of the Happy Dog Duo – the ladies (left to right): LFMC president, Gwen Redding, and past president, Melanie Perez. Not shown, Mary Monsted, president, Metairie Music Club. We thank these ladies for their work and support.**



Playschool News

It has been a fun and wild year at the Playschool this year, and we are sorry to see our little ones leave us for the summer. Our students will finish the school year, have their graduations and receive their diplomas. They have grown so much during the course of the year and it is so nice to see their tears of sadness and apprehension replaced with laughter and smiles. The children have had a wonderful school year and we wish the best to our students that are not returning to us next year, especially our Transitional Kindergarteners. We know they will do great things at "real" school. We are excited to have so many students returning to us next year and we can't wait to see them again along with many new faces in September!

We are having four weeks of Summer Camp during the weeks of June 11, June 18, July 9, and July 16.

May 11- TK Graduation in Sanctuary

May 14-16- Graduations for all other classes

May 16- LAST day of school/ End of Year Teacher Luncheon



MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY ALL
YOUR

*Birthday
Wishes*

COME
TRUE

05/02 Melchert, Kathryn

05/05 Marler, Ashley

05/06 Boan, Dianne

05/12 Russo, David

05/14 Cowand, George

Fourmaux, Melvyn 05/17

Thomas, Laura 05/20

Melchert, Don 05/29

Zea, Dr. Arnold 05/31








Wooderson, Bob 05/31

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



May

- 1st:  May Day
 >P/S Tuition due
 >PW Council Mtg @ 10:00 (Lbry)
 >PW End-of-Year Celebration Dinner @ Café' East
- 3rd: National Day of Prayer 
 >PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 5th:  Cinco de Mayo
- 7th: Worship CM @ 5:30 (CR)
- 8th: Lydia Circle Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 11th: P/S TK Graduation @ 10:00 (Sanc) 
- 13th:  Mother's Day & Youth  Service
 > C/E CM after Worship
- 14th: P/S CM @ noon
 >Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 15th: P/S Last Day for T/Th Classes /Graduation
 >Grace Circle @ 9:30 (Lbry)
 >Resource CM @ 7:00p (CR)
- 16th: P/S Last Day—No Extended Care
 >Teacher's Luncheon
- 17th: PW **FUN & GAMES** 10:00-noon (Lbry)
- 20th: Pentecost
 >Last Day of Sunday School
- 21st: P/S Teacher's Work Week
 >Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lbry)
- 27th: Casual Sundays Begin
- 28th: Memorial Day 
 >Church Office Closed—Holiday

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

June

- 4th: Worship CM @ 5:30p (CR)
- 5th: Presbytry Stated Mtg @ JCPC - All Day 
- 10th: C/E CM after Worship
- 11th: P/S Summer Camp Wk-1
 >Outreach CM @ 6:30p (Lbry)
- 10th: Resource @ 7:00p (CR)
- 16th: 23rd Genr'l Assembly Convenes 
- 17th: Father's Day
- 18th: P/S Summer Camp Wk-2
 Session Mtg @ 7:00p (Lib)
- 20th: American Eagle Day
- 21st: Summer Begins
- 22nd: 23rd Genr'l Assembly Ends 

Note: Committee Mtg. time changes may not be reflected.
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John Calvin Presbyterian Church



"Freed by the Fire, Renewed by the Flood, and Empowered by the Spirit"