

Calvin Commentary

NEWSLETTER OF JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
METAIRIE, LA

OCTOBER 2021

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From Rev.
Ochart



Visiting with SC friends while evacuated; Photo by Stephanie Streetman

THROUGH THE STORM

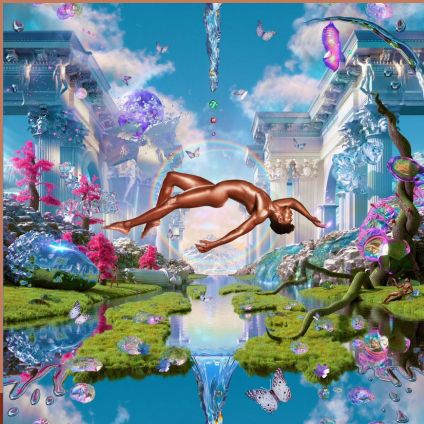
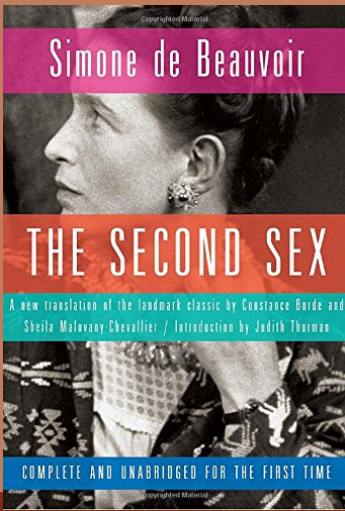
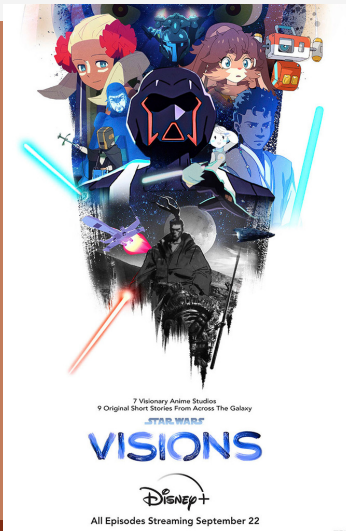
BY THE REV. AARON OCHART

"How did you make it through the storm?" seems to be a common refrain over the last month or so. Many in our area have good reports on that front. Most report only minor damage. Some have sustained more damage, but overall I am hearing feelings of gratitude over how much worse it could have been. Many have the privilege (and curse) of dealing with insurance companies, and knowing that even if we have damage now, it will only be for now.

As we are thankful for the relative safety that we have had, we are mindful of others who were not as lucky. To the South, to the West, and to the North buildings and whole communities have been devastated, and will take years to rebuild.

After some disaster or another Mr. Rogers, the Presbyterian minister and children's television host, was asked what advice he would give. He said that when he was younger, and something bad happened, he would "look for the helpers," look for the people involved and supporting one another. We might be reminded, that as adults, we are the helpers. We can be the ones who come in and help where we can. The wonderful folks at RHINO (Renewing Hope in New Orleans), who began their ministry after Katrina, and are continuing it now in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. They are putting together projects and work crews of non-skilled labor to help muck out buildings, clear limbs and trash, and sort donated items. If you are interested in being a helper in this way, email them at rino@scacp.org to be added to their 'Master List' of projects. Meanwhile, our church continues to discern how God may be using us during this time to serve all of God's children. Thanks be to God. ✝

Playlist



October Member Spotlight

John Laporte



John Laporte is a long time member of John Calvin. He grew up in New Orleans and attended Napoleon Avenue Presbyterian Church with his sister, Connie Casey, and family. He and his wife Linda were married in the Carrollton Avenue Presbyterian Church where they continued their membership. Their three children (John, Julie, and Jill) were baptized there. The family moved to Metairie in 1969 and joined John Calvin in 1970.

John has been a member of session, serving on the Facilities Committee. He remembers the days of mowing the grass from behind Room 12 all the way to Lemon Street. What a job! He was also involved in maintaining all the church buildings. He remembers quite a few plumbing projects in the Play School. Currently you can find John volunteering each year for the Play School Art and Fun Festival and serving as usher on Sunday.

Prior to retirement, John was an Engineering Specialist with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. He oversaw the inspection and construction of the Interstate system in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, the Westbank Expressway superstructure approaches to the GNO Bridge and various other local and state highway projects. Currently he enjoys working in his backyard, from gardening projects to woodworking. He also belonged to a local AARP chapter based at East Jefferson Hospital where he held many offices including president.

When asked what his favorite memories of John Calvin are, he quickly replied the friendliness and outreach of the congregation. It feels like a family.

He and Linda have three children and four grandchildren. They are looking forward to the weddings of two of their grandsons in the Spring. John is enjoying his retirement years.

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EACH OF US MUST DAILY CHOOSE BETWEEN GIVING IN TO THE WORLD'S PRESSURE TO TRUST IN OURSELVES OR YIELDING CONTROL OF OUR LIVES TO GOD. WHILE FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTIONS WHEN WE DON'T SEE IMMEDIATE RESULTS CAN BE DIFFICULT, THE PAYOFF WILL ALWAYS BE TREMENDOUS.

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Continuing Forward in Faith

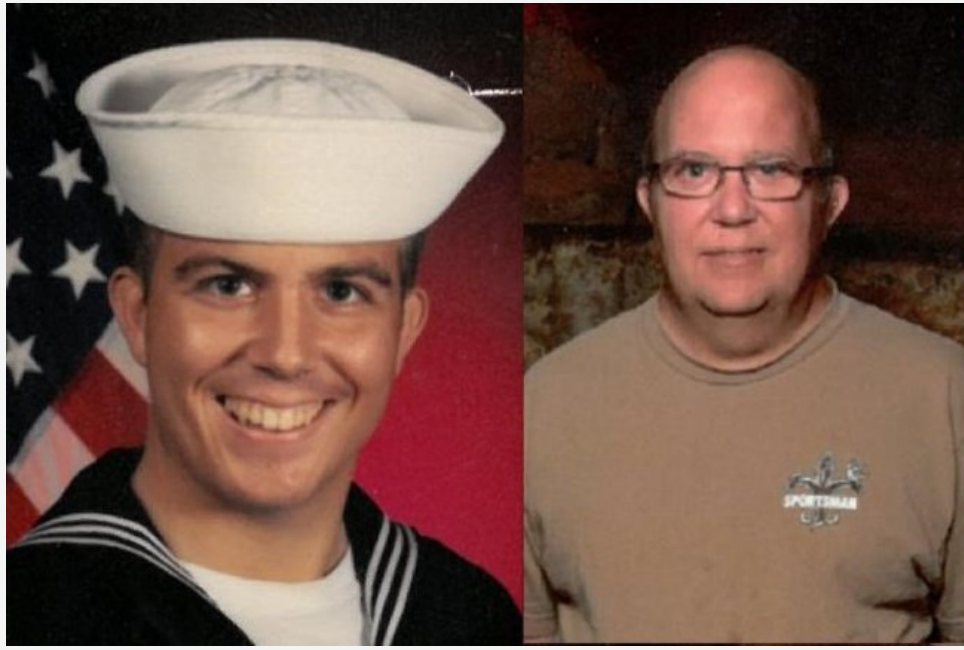
John Calvin

Presbyterian Church

Stewardship Campaign 2022

Pledge Cards due in-person or
online on Pledge Sunday:
October 31st, 2022

"Now faith is the assurance of
things hoped for, the conviction
of things unseen" Hebrews 11:1
NRSV



James S. Kennedy III passed away on Friday, September 10, 2021, at the age of 53. He was born on September 6, 1968 in New Orleans. Jimmy is survived by his mother Beverly Orr Kennedy and father James S. Kennedy, Jr.; brothers David H. Kennedy (Tracy) and Michael S. Kennedy (Sarah); nephews and niece Henry Kennedy, Bria and Reid Kennedy; cousins Dianna Chatham, Deborah Metoyer and Cory Exsterstein. He is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Henry H. Orr and Marguerite Orr; paternal grandparents James S. Kennedy and Virginia Ellen Tricou; aunt Evelyn Orr Agnelly. Jimmy served in the US Navy and was an avid fisherman. He will be fondly remembered for his love of his family. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Service on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 1:00pm at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home, 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd., New Orleans. Visitation will begin at 11:00am. Interment in Lake Lawn Park and Mausoleum. To view and sign the online guestbook, please visit www.lakelawnmetairie.com



On September 16, 2021, Julie Ann Laporte was called home by her Lord and Savior at the age of 58. Julie was the Daughter of John M. Laporte, Jr and Linda Ann Flaig Laporte. She will be sorely missed by her parents as well as her siblings John M. Laporte, III (Kelly) and Jill Laporte Drouant (Troy); nephews Logan Laporte, Addison Drouant (Godchild) (Kayla), and Mason Drouant, and niece Langley Laporte. Also saddened by her loss are her Aunt Connie Casey (Godmother); Uncle Wayne and Aunt Joyce Laporte; Aunt Winnie Flaig, and many more cousins and friends including Jim Schoen, Holly Schott, Debbie Gares, Josh Mann and all of her friends and acquaintances at her church Voice of the Kingdom.

Julie was a 1981 graduate of Grace King High School. She was looking forward to her upcoming 40th reunion. She also attended LSU and UNO. Julie was a very kind, passionate and thoughtful person. She had an immense love for animals and everyone around her. She was able to use her God-given gifts to start her own business “Just Ask Julie” in 2010. This business afforded her the ability to take care of people’s homes and spread her positivity, organization and spirituality. She was able to influence so many lives in such a powerful way!!

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral Service, officiated by Minister Dean Sunseri of Voice Of The Kingdom, to be held at Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Visitation will begin at 12:00 pm. Interment will follow at Greenwood Cemetery.

The family would like to kindly remind all attending to wear facemasks due to COVID restrictions. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to www.voiceofthekingdom.org or Venmo: “Voice of the Kingdom New Orleans”.