



Calvary United Methodist Church

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sweetheart Dinner.....2

New Year’s Resolution.....3

Risk-Taking4

2010 Administration.....6

Birthdays/
Anniversaries.....7

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

PARSON TO PERSON

A Message from Pastor Rob Carter

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

At the past General Conference (legislative gathering for the whole United Methodist Church) there was a change made to the official membership vows of the church. At the various places where the candidate is traditionally asked, “... will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts and service?” The General Conference would have us add the word “witness.”

These are the promises made by every person who joins a United Methodist Church so they are not something we should take lightly. Let’s take a look at them:

Our Prayers – Most of us kind of take this one for granted. We pray in church. We even have the “prayer prelude” at which we are told to focus our prayers on the service and ministry of the church. So there you have it. We are participating in the ministries of the church with our prayers. That’s good but I think this promise is meant to go a little deeper than that. We should be praying regularly and including the church and the church people in our prayers. That includes paying attention when prayer concerns are shared in worship, at meetings, over e-mail or



prayer chain. It also includes praying for the church in all our prayers especially when issues arise and new programs are started. We should not overlook the importance of this promise.

Our Presence – We all know that this means—“being here.” Members who are not shut-ins are expected to attend worship on a regular basis. However, “presence” seems a stronger word than attendance. This is more than just being here to be counted. It suggests that we are to be attentive, participating, involved in what is taking place. We have promised to be “present” with each other, with the service as it is conducted, with God.

Our Gifts – Most of us understand this one to mean financial gifts. That is a true, but not quite complete, understanding. I’ll take a moment to mention that we spend a lot of time trying to figure out how

FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

Do you know how to ensure that you will be invited back to a Tea? If invited, would you know how to hold your tea cup? Then you must not have been at Calvary on December 12th when the United Methodist Women sponsored their First Annual Christmas Tea.

Over thirty ladies, including a few visitors plus two ladies from Shiloh United Methodist Church, spent an afternoon sipping various flavors of tea and munching on scones, fancy sandwiches and cookies. If you missed it, you missed a fun time.

Carolyn Carter gave an informative little narrative on how to act, what to do and how to make sure you will get invited back to the next tea. It has something to do with your napkin.

One lucky lady was the recipient of a Christmas gift, which quite a few ladies got a chance to hold, but were not able to keep it.

Be sure to mark your new calendar for December 11, 2010 which is the date the UMW will host their Second Annual Christmas Tea Party. If you are a lady, you are invited!

Calvary's United Methodist Women

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News from The Friendship Club

The Club's first meeting of the new year included a celebration of Marion Schreiber's 95th birthday. Also during the meeting, the group was happy to welcome two new members—Rebecca Morris and Shirley Page.

New plans for the year include:

- ✓ A 15 minute devotional at each meeting;
- ✓ The sale of placemats was a great success last year so the Club has decided to continue making and selling them for all occasions throughout the year.

Sweetheart Dinner

**February 13, 2010
4:00 PM**

In keeping with what has become a tradition over the years, the United Methodist Men of Calvary UMC will, again this year, host their annual Sweetheart Dinner in celebration and honor of their "sweethearts" on Valentine Day.

The men are already gearing up for the big event which will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy an evening of good fellowship, a relaxing atmosphere, beautiful decorations, and the pleasure of being served by the men.

The menu includes spaghetti, salad and desert. A free-will offering is acceptable. Proceeds will be used to support upcoming events sponsored by the UMM throughout the year.

You don't want to miss this! Please call the church at (301) 645-5247 to RSVP by February 6 so that we can plan according to expected attendance.

Contact Doug Peters at (301) 645-0220 for additional information.

Christmas Shopping Bags for the Homeless

The UMM would like to thank everyone for your donations to the Christmas Shopping Bags for the Homeless. Our outreach effort was a great success—we donated 16 bags to the Homeless Shelter in the Industrial Center. They greatly appreciate your generous giving and extends a heart-felt "thanks" to everyone.

Calvary's United Methodist Men

New Year's Resolution—Have you made yours?

How do we get more people involved is the question commonly shared among church leaders. A few months ago Pastor Carter preached a sermon about going over and beyond, and doing something extra to “serve” your church. What have you resolved to do in 2010? There are various ministries at Calvary which present many opportunities to get involved. For starters, consider the following two:

Ushers Ministry

Ruthie Kaclik, chairwoman of the Ushers Ministry, wishes to thank everyone who served in the ministry last year. Volunteers are still needed for

this year. The first three months are filled but there are still nine more months from which to choose. Sign-up early while the pickings are great! First come, first to “serve.” Contact Ruthie to name your Sunday or month and indicate when you, your spouse, friends or whomever are available. Just grab an “usher buddy” and serve!

Finance Committee

Counters Needed—Still pondering what you can do to help your church in this new year? Why not volunteer to help count the offering after church on Sundays. It only requires about 30-45 minutes



your time, and you don't have to do it every week. See Kathy Peters, Calvary's new financial secretary, to sign-up or you can add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the Café.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS?

Have You Pledged?



pledge form into the blue box in the narthex; mail it to the church, or call the church office at (301) 645-5247 and give Mildred your pledge amount over the phone.

2010 Pledges

Your pledge is an important component of Calvary's financial planning. To notify the Finance Committee of your pledge amount you may place your



Offering Envelopes

2010 Contribution envelopes are in. Please remember to pick up your personalized box from the narthex as soon as possible.

Risk-Taking Missions—A Journey to the Ends of the Earth or at Least to Nanjemoy

Inspired by the Spirit of the Christmas Season and the sermon this past Fall on "Risk-Taking Missions," Calvary's Choir decided to provide and deliver a Christmas Basket to a needy person in Charles County. After contacting two local charities in an attempt to find a Charles County senior citizen who was in need of assistance, Linda Fenlon spoke with a case worker at the Health Department. That conversation directed us to a developmentally disabled married couple, Shirley and Ralph, who live in Nanjemoy. After learning of their dietary needs (Shirley has diabetes and is currently being treated for cancer), we organized food needs and Calvary's choir members donated everything the couple would need for a nice Christmas dinner plus plenty of extras to keep them well fed into the new year.

Since "risk-taking missions" means making it "personal," we established Sunday, December 20th as the delivery date...and then came the Blizzard of 2009! Yes, we were willing to take a risk but didn't think we should risk "life, limb or vehicle" to make the delivery that day! So, after much coordination and a few schedule adjustments, on the

evening of December 23rd, six excited members of the choir departed White Plains, piled into Linda's four-wheel drive vehicle and headed off to the far reaches of Charles County! To those of you not acquainted with Charles County geography, Nanjemoy really is at the end of the county... Thanks to Google Maps

"Risk-taking
Missions"
means
making it
"personal"

and Linda's fearless driving, we made only one minor wrong turn—into the driveway before Shirley and Ralph's house. Because of the 16+ inches of snow that fell a few days before, Linda made expert use of her four-wheel drive including "four low" to get us turned around and back on track.

Unloading boxes and bags of food and goodies, our small group

made it up the back steps where we were warmly greeted by Ralph and invited into their warm, simple home. Shirley remained on the couch, where she spends much of her time due to her chemotherapy. After greeting the couple, we asked if we could sing them a few Christmas Carols. To our delight, they not only welcomed our singing but Ralph joined in and sang with such gusto it put a smile on all our faces. We left shortly thereafter, heading back for choir practice that evening. It is safe to say that none of us knew what to expect when we decided to provide a Christmas Basket. We all wanted to help provide a little Christmas joy to someone "less fortunate." But as we left Shirley and Ralph's trailer and walked back to Linda's Pathfinder, we realized that in giving, we had been blessed far greater than we had ever imagined. It seems that in "risk-taking missions" the "risk" isn't necessarily about the physical ardor of the journey (though we did encounter that!) but also about the "risk" that is incurred when one opens his/her heart to help another and is in turn, blessed also.

Calvary's Outreach Committee

Parson to Person *(continued from pg. 1)*

much we should give. The biblical standard is the tithe, ten percent of our income. The United Methodist Church is not one that expects you to turn over your W-2 to prove that you are tithing but we do encourage tithing as healthy and responsible stewardship of our financial resources.

There is another dimension to this particular item in the membership vows. God has gifted us all in more than material ways. Spiritual gifts, talents, and highly developed skills are also gifts included in this promise. From time to time we offer a spiritual gifts class to help you discern your gifts. I highly recommend that you seize that opportunity when it comes around again. In addition, if we can sing or play an instrument, I would understand this promise to mean we would at least make ourselves available on an occasional basis for some part of our music ministry. If we can do fine woodwork, or draw or are especially adept at house painting or administration, we should offer those gifts as well. God has been wonderfully generous with us in the amount and diversity our giftedness and it is only right that we as disciples use those gifts in his service.

Our Service – This one overlaps with the second understanding of gifts. Church membership is a promise of discipleship which is much more than just attending worship once a week. We offer our service. It might be to spend a Sunday morning in the Second Cup Café, showing up at a work day or helping to decorate the church. It might be sitting in a Church Council meeting or Worship Team, or serving as a liturgist. Possibilities seem endless for us to fulfill our promise to offer God our service through Calvary Church.

Now for the new one, Our Witness – This is an addition to our membership vows because the United Methodist Church had come to believe that the other vows were a little inward directed. This promise is to make us more “outward in our focus” as one publication put it, we are now being called to not only “show up but to show forth.” It is a fundamental understanding of Christian discipleship that we witness to our faith. This may include standing on the street corner handing out tracts but

that certainly isn’t the extent or fullness of the call to witness. To witness is to tell your story. That you are a follower of Christ, that you worship, that you find meaning and purpose and hope and joy in your faith should not be secrets. Everyone has a story. Just tell your story to people you know or people you meet.

The fact that this is new to the membership vows doesn’t change the basic truth that it is part of discipleship. Don’t go looking for a loophole here. These vows are meant to reflect God’s claim on the faithful person, ways that his love is made manifest in our lives. Regardless of the words we say at membership, these vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness are the very bedrock of the church.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Have you heard! Calvary is getting ready to do a new pictorial directory? It’s been three years or more since the last one. We’ve received new members, lost members and the last directory no longer really reflects us. You will see posters around the church, inserts in the bulletin and other invitations to sign-up and have your picture taken. If you do, you get a directory and a free 8X10 photograph and the opportunity to purchase others if you so desire. This time, we are working with Olan Mills, one of the top firms in this business and we are assured that no pressure will be applied to get you to buy pictures although you will be given the opportunity when you select your shot to be included in the directory.

Sitting dates are February 3 & 4 and Kathy Peters will be available at a sign-up table on Sundays so that you can schedule your sitting. Afternoon and evening hours are available so sign up and show up so we can have the best, most complete directory possible.

**Calvary United Methodist Church
LEADERSHIP - 2010 ADMINISTRATION**

1. Offices

Conference Lay Member: Dale Merkle
Lay Leader: Andy Anderson
Church Council Chair: Cheryl Merkle
Church Council Vice-Chair: TBD
Church Council Secretary: Sharon French
Assistant Secretary: Kathy Peters

2. Committee on Staff-Parish Relations

Class of 2010: Susan Cunningham (Chair)
Class of 2011: Danielle Hemingway, Sharon French
Class of 2012:

3. Board of Trustees

Class of 2010: Royce Hemingway, Carrie Akin
Class of 2011: Gary Hall, Logan Marsh
Class of 2012: Jennifer Santos, Stacy Feldman

Trustees Subcommittees

Cemetery: Dawn Townsend (Chair)
 Everett Currie, Bill Olsen, Ron Black,
 Bob Boettcher

Groundskeeping: Everett Currie, Edsel Bradbury
Kitchen: Marsha Thompson (Chair), Jean Turner

4. Committee on Finance

Chair: Keith Akins
Ex Officio: Pastor, Lay Members of Annual
 Conference, Lay Leader, Treasurer, Committee
 on Staff Parish Relations representative, Trustees
 representative, Church Council Chairperson
Financial Secretary: Kathy Peters

Treasurer: Norma Bradbury
At Large: LaSage Mickinak, Cheryl Merkle

5. Lay Leadership Committee

Class of 2010: Cheryl Barron
Class of 2011: Stacy Feldman, Janet Ferrell
Class of 2012: Myrtle Currie, Brenda Russell

6. Communications Work Area

Bulletin Boards: Jeanne Turner
Internet Site Coordinator: Keith Akins
Newsletter Editor: Mildred Jackson
Outdoor Sign: Dale Merkle

7. Membership Secretary: Mildred Jackson

8. Church Historian: Wayne Welsh

9. Librarian: Janet Ferrell

10. Nursery Coordinator: Sandy Schliep

***PROGRAM AREAS OF NURTURE
OUTREACH & WORSHIP***

11. Scouting Coordinator: Monica Brown

12. Youth Coordinator: Logan Marsh

13. Bereavement Committee: Friendship Club
 Janet Talbert

14. Prayer Partners: Sharon French

15. Education Work Area

Sunday School Superintendent: Marlene Phillips/
 Lisa Brown

Vacation Bible School: TBD
Assistant: TBD

16. Parents' Day Out: Janet Morgan

17. United Methodist Men: Doug Peters (Pres.)
 Gary Hall (VP)

18. United Methodist Women: Marlene Phillips

Continued on pg. 7

2010 ADMINISTRATION *(continued from pg. 6)*

19. Outreach Committee

Chair: Becky Merkle

At Large: Heather Malkasian, Dale Merkle, Cheryl Merkle, Marlene Phillips, Andy Anderson, Linda Anderson, Carolyn Carter

20. Health and Welfare Committee

Chairs: Kathy Peters, Marsha Thompson

Assistants: Janet Talbert, Ron Colby, Hannah Ayer, Gene Talley, Joyce Talley,

21. Committee on Worship

Chair: Pastor Carter

Music Director: Karen Smith

Organ & Piano: Ramona Black, Janet Talbert & Linda Fenlon

Acolyte: Diane Phillips

Communion Stewards: Jean Turner

Sound: Dale Merkle, Spencer Schliep, Bob Boettcher, Keith Akins

Ushers: Ruthie Kaclik

22. Church Council At Large

Everett Currie	Kellee Milheim
Myrtle Currie	Russ Milheim
John Blom	Edsel Bradbury
Wayne Welsh	Bill Olsen
Marion Schreiber	Janet Talbert
Marie Bowling, Honorary	Carolyn Carter

Children's Sunday School

Did you hear us sing in church on December 13? We sang in front of everyone. We did our best and all the people clapped. That really made us feel good. "Thank you" for helping us, Ms. Kathy!



Last month, we learned about the angel that came to see Mary to tell her the good news. We heard the story "Jesus is Born." Just like the shepherds told others about the birth of Jesus, we also can tell the good news that Christmas brings to all the world.

The 3 and 4 years & 5 and 6 year old classes



January Birthdays

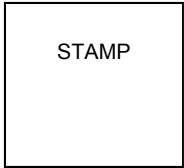
Natalie Allard	2
Roxanne Golliver	2
Alma Caroline Padgett	2
Isy Fischer	3
Kailey Musterer	3
Dolly Robey	4
Dekker Chuska	4
Margaret Morris	4
Robert Dale Merkle	5
John Smith	6
Dot Wisniewski	9
Marlene Smith	9
Carroll Hardesty	10
Ronald Black	10
Kristina Holland	11
John Blom	12
Lisa Brown	13
Carolyn Wagner	13
Richard Anderson	13
James Thompson	15
Emilia Milheim	15
Marlene Phillips	16
Christine Clontz	16
Karen Eilene Bouchard	17
Trevor Drummond	18
Stacey Stansbury	18
Joy Drummond	20
Erika Blevins	21
Katelyn Morgan	24
Kathryn Honeycutt	25
Kristin Arends	27
Clayton Andrew Fields	28
Philip Johnston	28
Jonathan Boettcher	28
Shirley Page	28
Harry Kesterson	30
Kara Chuska	30

Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Drummond 6



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Visit Calvary on the Internet:
www.calvumc.org
E-mail: calvumc@calvumc.org

Calvary

HORIZONS

The Newsletter of
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Robert D. Carter, Pastor
Mildred Jackson, Editor
301-645-5247

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