

**Calvary United Methodist Church**

3235 Leonardtown Road  
Waldorf, MD 20601

Ph: 301-645-5247  
Fax: 301-645-2585

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**PARSON TO PERSON**

*A Message from Pastor Rob Carter*

**The End of the World**

Saturday, May 21st, during the Emmaus walk I recently attended, we were sitting at dinner and one of my dinner companions looked up and said, “We’re missing the end of the world.” It was, of course, an odd thing to say but she was making a comment on Dr. Harold Camping’s recent, much publicized, declaration that May 21, 2011 was going to be Judgment Day.

Apparently, Dr. Camping’s followers rented billboard’s proclaiming May 21 as the end of the world. Many of them drained their life savings (I don’t know why. What did they think they were going to do with that money after the end of the world?), left their jobs, packed up their children and were sitting in breathless anticipation for the end in whatever way God was going to bring it about. Reports now say that those followers are disappointed and disillusioned and not a little angry. Who can blame them?

I imagine most of us can remember other “date setters” who proclaimed loudly and with apparent confidence that they had figured out some sort of code or formula which revealed to them when Christ would return to the earth. They all seem to blithely ignore



Jesus’ own words that appear in both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark discussing this matter, “But nobody knows when the day or hour will come—not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows.”

While United Methodists do not often dwell on such matters, the Second Coming of Jesus is part of our doctrine. We do not, however, recommend treating history and current events as some great cosmological puzzle that we can solve to figure out when all this will happen. People of our denominational heritage are much more likely to suggest that it could happen any day and the question that needs to be asked is, “If it’s tomorrow, will you be ready?”

By ready, I do not mean to ask if you have quit your job, taken all your money out of the bank and climbed to a high hilltop to see Christ coming.

I don’t really see what any of that has to do with it. Readiness for the

## Calvary United Methodist Men

*When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. —Galatians 5:22-23*

Our next scheduled event, the 5th Annual Corn Roast/Picnic, will be held on Sunday, July 10th, after morning worship service which begins at 11:00 AM.

We have taken the liberty of naming the Corn Roast in honor of our dear friends, John Ferrell and Fred McConnell. Both John and Fred were a huge influence in the formation of the Corn Roast and always helped with the planning, working, and success of the event. From this day forward, the official name of the event will be "The Annual Ferrell and McConnell Corn Roast." We hope that you will mark this date in your calendar and join us for a fun time.

As always, the UMM meet on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast, fellowship, and a short meeting. Breakfast begins at 8:00am followed by a devotional, kitchen clean-up, and a short meeting. We invite all men of Calvary to join us. We will do our best to encourage you and share our love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Thought for the Day:*

"It is no great thing to be humble when you are brought low; but to be humble when you are praised is a great and rare attainment." — St. Bernard of Clairvaux

*I am eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by you. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other. —Romans 1:12*

God loves you and we love you!

Your brother in Christ,  
Gary W. Hall

### **PARSON TO PERSON** (Continued from Pg. 1)

Second Coming is much more likely to be measured by questions about whether or not you have accepted Christ as your Savior, whether you have helped other people to know Christ, whether you have been compassionate and loving and faithful. I believe that disciples—faithful disciples, are always ready for Christ's coming because faith and discipleship are the criteria by which we will be judged.

If you are a person of faith, you need not lose any sleep over the date of the world's end. You have already passed the test.

In Christ,  
Pastor Rob

## Calvary's Vision Coming into Focus

A Message from the Council Chair

Over the last several months you've heard a lot about Calvary's Vision: "We see a diverse, multi-generational congregation, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in the community and the world."

Ministries throughout the church were asked to discuss and document how they are working to make that vision a reality. I would like to extend a big "thank you" to the many groups that have completed ministry planning sheets for the upcoming year. If your group has not had the opportunity to do so, it's not too late. Blank sheets can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Just complete the sheet and slip it in the Church Council's mail box.

I would also like to bring your attention to a very exciting development that is planned for Calvary—a Christian Child Care Center. At a special Council meeting in April, we voted to allow Stacey Feldman to open a Christian Child Care Center at Calvary. To help make this ministry successful, it was requested and approved that two walls be removed to renovate the three smaller rooms into one large room. The rooms affected are the classrooms closest to the kitchen. The exact date for this construction work has not yet been set. For more information about this project, please contact Stacey or the Trustees. I hope you will agree that this is a wonderful ministry opportunity for Calvary to establish a presence in the community and to share the message of God's love. That's exactly what Calvary's Vision is all about and this new Child Care Center is a big steps towards achieving that Vision. ~

## Staff Parish Relations Committee News

By Susan Cunningham

On behalf of the SPRC, I want to relay a recent event that was brought to my attention by Bishop Schol, to share with our church leadership and congregation.

The Washington Post published a fairly lengthy investigation they did on a local church in Northern Virginia, that involved a six-year period of sex abuse involving the church's youth director. This is a church of over 2,500 members in an affluent community. The story also made the US Today recently when the insurance company was trying to prevent the church from issuing a public apology to its victims. Needless to say the church is embroiled in a long period of healing, legal issues and damage control. As many as 12 teenage girls may have suffered sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse from this individual. There were several "red flags" that indicated this individual had a problem. The staff of a religious summer camp notified the church that this person had inappropriate contact with a 14-year old girl, but no action was taken. Some of the victims would not come forward for fear of "being looked down on." One did try to come forward but was ignored. As the situation evolved, eventually charges were brought against this person. Another mistake here was that the church actually supported the offender and raised money for his defense. This person pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and was able to leave the area without a felony conviction. The church had never taken this to the general Presbyterian Council for the National Capital region (the equivalent of our BWC) throughout any of these dealings. "The church had tried to contain the issue when the Presbyterian Church has a solid sexual abuse policy and teams of people to respond to such situations."

An alarming fact that came from this was the statistic that "a recent review of sex abuse cases showed that 40 of the 180 churches in this area have had to deal with the issue."

Calvary UMC has been working hard to bring us into total compliance with our own established Safe Sanctuary procedures. It would be easy to be naïve and think it could not happen in our church or a small community, but unfortunately these statistics have proven that it can. As this story also highlighted, the whole church community must be involved and be vigilant.

SPRC conducted a self-evaluation checklist from the BWC to test our compliance with recommended Safe Sanctuary procedures. We were in compliance with all measures except we do not have a formal annual education for parents of children and youth about how to recognize and reduce risks of abuse.

We have very specific training for all individuals that work with children and procedures in place to prevent any opportunity for inappropriate behavior. Our goal is to create a safe and secure environment for the children.

Parents should establish their procedures or training with their children on identifying and being alert to possible abuse. If we decide this is an area parents would like more information on we can consider bringing in some professionals that can speak to this.

### Procedures for Reporting Abuse

1. If you are made aware of any allegation of abuse of children, youth, or vulnerable adults the law requires that you report it. You must report anything that could even be possibly true.
2. Listen carefully to the story and then take a moment to write it down.
3. Notify the Pastor immediately. The Pastor will notify the District Superintendent and any civil authority that is warranted as well as the insurance company. If it is not appropriate to notify the Pastor, you may notify the Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee and the District superintendent yourself.
4. Submit a written report immediately.
5. Do not discuss the issue with anyone but the people involved.
6. The Pastor will provide direction for the parents.
7. Any media inquiries should be "no comment" and referred to the Bishop.
8. The warmth and concern shown at the first level will have a lot to do with the outcome. Children should be assured that they are not at fault. Parents should be apprised of the investigation steps being taken.

On behalf of SPRC and Calvary UMC I want to thank all of the individuals that have taken the steps and gone through the process to comply with the procedures. Taking the program serious is the most important step to preventing any "unwelcomed opportunities." Our youth are important to the future of our church. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Susan Cunningham. ~

## Outreach Update

Plans have changed. The Outreach Committee has decided to postpone the Free Yard Sale until fall. The new date is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in October which would be in conjunction with the Conference's "Change the World" event. "Change the World" events are suppose to get our United Methodist congregations out in our communities, being Christ's hands and feet and making a difference. We will still need a lot of help from the congregation to have the yard sale in the fall; and are still soliciting participation from some of the other UMCs in the Charles County area.

Dale Merkle, Calvary's Annual Conference representative, recently attended the Conference and reported that over \$79,000 was raised for UMCOR and their disaster relief

programs. The Outreach Committee thanks everyone for your contributions of over \$1500 raised through the Talent Night and Dessert Auction in April, to benefit Japan. Our own country has since faced several devastating natural disasters, so we encourage your continued support of UMCOR and their effort to help those in need.

There are several other outreach events in the works so keep your eyes and ears open for ways you can participate and help. Christ gives us daily opportunities to share his love with others whether it's in our world, our country, our neighborhood or our very own homes. How do you plan to help "the least of these" in the next few days or weeks? ~

## A CHRISTIAN

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not shouting "I am saved." I am whispering "I get lost", that is why I chose this way.

When I say I'm a Christian, I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to be my guide.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I am weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are too visible but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say I'm a Christian, I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches which is why I seek his name.

When I say I'm a Christian, I do not wish to judge. I have no authority, I only know I am loved.

—Author Unknown

## A Little Help Please

At the May Church Council meeting, we were surprised to learn that Calvary's electric bill for our main building was over \$3500 for April. That calculates to an astounding \$118 PER DAY! April was a relatively mild month, temperature wise, so we can only imagine what our bills will be with the Summer heat setting in.

Many ideas were discussed to help bring down the electric bill. Ideas included getting the HVAC system checked, having an energy audit conducted on the church building, keeping the thermostat set a couple degrees cooler in the Winter and a

couple degrees warmer during the Summer, keeping lights off, etc. For starters, some repair work has already been done on the HVAC which should improve energy efficiency.

To really make a difference we need everyone's help. We need help to keep lights off when not needed, keep the outside doors closed when it's hot/cold outside and keep the drapes closed in the sanctuary when it is unoccupied. If you have a meeting at church and the room is a little stuffy, consider opening a window

rather than turning down the thermostat (Remember to shut the window before you leave.). Also, please take extra care when securing and exiting the building that the outside lights are not left on.

If we all do our part, we should be able to save some money, save some energy and also help save the planet. ~

## United Methodist Women's Retreat October 7-9, 2011

Come join us for a weekend retreat of spiritual uplifting, great fun, and fellowship. We will be staying at the Riverview Lodge at the Manidokan Camp & Retreat Center, 1600 Harpers Ferry Rd, Knoxville, MD 21758. This is a Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Retreat Center located 20 miles west of Frederick, MD; and approximately 95 miles from Calvary UMC.

The Lodge offers 8 bedrooms with private bathrooms. Two are wheelchair accessible and sleep three people; four rooms sleep four people, and two rooms sleep five.

The cost is \$120 (\$30 deposit now and the balance due by September 11) which includes five family style meals—three on Saturday and two on

Sunday. All meals are held in the Friendship Hall at appointed times. Breakfast is at 8:15 a.m., lunch at 12:15 p.m. and dinner at 5:30 p.m. Advanced notification is required for special dietary requests.

Guest are required to provide their own twin size bed linen/sleeping bag, pillow and personal care items (towel, wash cloth, soap, shampoo, etc.). Check-in time is after 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Details for departing Calvary on Friday will be determined later in the year.

See Kathy Peters to make your deposit. Kathy and/or Marlene Phillips are also available to answer your questions or to provide additional information. ~

## 2011 Women of Faith Tour

Imagine fellowship with 10,000+ Christian ladies; We all know how much fun it is to get together with a couple of girlfriends for a time of relaxation and fellowship. Well imagine how rewarding it would be to share with 10,000 other ladies! Thanks to Women of Faith ([www.womenoffaith.com](http://www.womenoffaith.com)) you don't have to imagine! Instead, mark your calendar and plan to join Calvary's ladies at the 2011 Women of Faith "Imagine" Tour. August 26 - 27, Women of Faith will be returning to the Verizon Center bringing a unique blend of humor, drama, and music, coupled with the poignant message of God's love and hope.

We have fantastic seats reserved (section 113) and the ticket price of \$89 includes the full conference, Friday—day and evening events, and Saturday plus box lunches on both days. If you would like to be part of our group, please contact Cheryl Merkle immediately. All payments are due now.

Escape from the everyday routine of life and join us at the Women of Faith weekend. You'll be refreshed, encouraged and inspired. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever Imagine. ~



## The Friendship Club

By Rebecca Morris

The Friendship Club has been busy with outreach projects. March 26th our members baked homemade cookies. Three boxes of cookies and hard candy were shipped to Matt Bryant who is currently serving in the Air Force in Afghanistan.

We recently made a donation to support Joel Dyson's, Hannah Ayer's grandson, participation in a nine months, 24/7, youth leadership program sponsored by a group from Daystar Church Dominion Republic and Haiti. Wanting to learn more about the Lord, Joel has decided to extend his participation in the program for another nine months.

Janet Talbert chaired a group of our members who made Springtime/Easter table favors for Morningside Nursing Home. A total of 53 favors were presented to the residents of the home. The group also donated 30 favors to the Fenwick Nursing Home in Waldorf. Plans are to continue providing favors throughout the year.

Several of our members visited Mary Daniels in the nursing home and hospital. She is missed at our group meetings and church services. We will continue to keep Mary in our prayers.

We celebrated Administrative Day with Mildred on April 11th, with a luncheon in the fellowship hall. We presented her with a flower arrangement and a beautiful handmade card, created by Shirley Page's daughter, Gail Van Cleaf. Members of the Club and Pastor Carter wrote "thank you" messages to Mildred for all the support she provides to the Friendship Club and Calvary.

*Continued on page 6*

# Children's Sunday School

## June Lessons

### June 5 - The Man Beside the Pool (John 5:1-18)

This story is about a man who had suffered with a disability for thirty eight years. Children will learn we all need God's help sometimes in our lives.

### June 12 - Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-42)

The children will learn that God gives us many ways to do his will. We can communicate the news about Jesus to people without speaking, such as the way we act.

### June 19 - The Boy's Lunch (John 6:1-14)

Jesus performs a miracle that involves food. This story is about a boy who shared his lunch. We can share what God has given us.

### June 26 - Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)

Children will learn the story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus. He was blind and wanted to see very much. When we have faith and believe very strongly, miracles can happen and this faith is often found in children.



Happy Birthday, Garrett Starke on your eleventh birthday on June 11.

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB (Continued from Pg. 5)

April 25th Marion Schreiber's sister, Anna, and Ruth Taylor's granddaughter, Shelly, joined us for the day. We were happy to be in fellowship with our guest and invited them to join us again soon.

May 23rd 11 members of the Club gathered at Mimi's Café in Waldorf to celebrate our April, May and June birthdays. Birthday honorees included Pastor Carter, Janet Talbert, and Betty Blom.

Shirley Page was the hostess for our May 9th gathering. She provided delicious dessert and flower arrangements for each table. The flowers were freshly cut from Shirley's garden and add that special touch to the luncheon. Stay tuned for more from the Friendship Club. ~

# YARD SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

(Sponsored by the Youth Ministry)

**June 25<sup>th</sup> — 8:00 Am**

(Calvary's Church Parking Lot)

Come help the youth raise funds to begin their Holy Paintball Ministry!

**Space Rental: \$10 per space**  
(tables and chairs available free of charge)  
Setup begins at 7am

*Youth are accepting donations for their booth.*

### FAMILY FUN CENTER

(free will donations will be accepted)

### Activities

Face Painting                      various yard game contests  
moon bounce                      ball pit  
rubber ducky prize pond for kids  
music, and more . . .

**Food:** cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, hot dogs

### Community Service Bulletin Board

Available for all to post on

### Volunteers Needed

to help setup, run, and clean up.

### Contact:

Logan Marsh at (240) 216-6731

# Ushers' Ministry

After two and a half years as Coordinator of the Ministry, Ruthie has decided to resign and Bertie McConnell has graciously volunteered to take on the position. Ruthie wishes to thank those who served as ushers during her tenure, and encourages all to continue supporting the Ministry by signing-up and helping Bertie fill the vacancies for the upcoming months.

Contact Bertie at (301) 752-4711 or see her after church with any questions or concerns regarding the Ushers' Ministry. ~



## SFS Devotional Drive

The UMM is sponsoring a Strength for Service (SFS) Devotional Drive for the month of June. Your generous contribution of ANY amount will provide for the purchase of *military* SFS devotionals to our soldiers in war

zone areas. These daily devotionals are vital in providing continued strength and spiritual well-being to our soldiers in their walks with God during their extreme, difficult days away from home.

Our brave men and women on duty around the world make selfless sacrifices daily to help ensure we, as a nation, can enjoy our safety, security and freedom. By contributing to SFS, we are doing our part to show our soldiers just how much we love, care and support them.

Let the Lord Jesus Christ guide you with your gift by supporting the SFS Devotional Drive TODAY! Mark any pew envelope with "SFS" and place your contribution in the offering plate. And as always, keep our soldiers and their families in your prayers. Any SFS questions, please see Brother Andy Anderson. ~

## June Birthdays

Diane Phillips	2
Robert Allard, Jr.	3
Garrett Starke	11
April Brown	13
Charles Ourand	14
Shirley Ourand	16
Edsel Bradbury	20
Ashleigh Brown	21
Brian Morgan	21
Betty Blom	24
Kathie Auth	26
Betty Allard	26
Victoria Swanson	29
Frances Robertson	30

## Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson 8

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

" June 24th "

## Missed deadlines result in sad faces from the Editor

You may have wondered, "Why is there a deadline for submitting material for the newsletter?" Deadlines are set to allow ample production time. Sure, taking time to sit and write an article can be time consuming. But that's just the first step. Once the material is submitted to the Editor, the process of production begins which includes proofreading and editing prior to beginning the setup and layout of the newsletter. Production can take anywhere from one to two weeks—even longer. Once the material has been laid out, production is well on its way.

But what happens when articles are received after due date? Inserting additional material causes the entire design to be revised, thus delaying distribution of the newsletter. Delays sometime causes information to become dated by the time it's ready for distribution. And no one likes to read a "dated" newsletter. Dated material then has to be deleted, causing yet another shift of the layout and design, and delayed distribution.

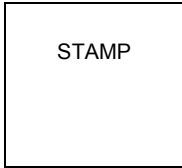
The goal is to distribute the newsletter sometime during the first week of each month. That's where you can help. The deadline for the upcoming summer issue is June 24th. Please be mindful to adhere to that deadline.

Smiles for all, 😊

Your Editor, Mildred



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Visit Calvary on the Internet:  
[www.calvumc.org](http://www.calvumc.org)  
E-mail: [calvumc@calvumc.org](mailto:calvumc@calvumc.org)

Calvary

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**HORIZONS**

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

Deadline for input in next issue: 6/24/11

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
July 11-15 (5:30 - 7:45 PM)  
Theme: **Island Odyssey**  
Contact Marlene Phillips or Becky Merkle  
at (301) 645-5247 for more details  
and to register your child to attend.