



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

It’s Been a Long Time Coming



When I became the pastor at Calvary in 2005, I checked out the statistics that had been reported by Calvary to the Conference. In 2004 we had reported our 5th consecutive year of declining worship attendance. 2005 did not break that trend. Neither did 2006 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10. Ten consecutive years of declining worship attendance. Trust me it’s not a world record, not even a Conference record but it did and does suggest that we had/have a lot of work to do.

This year as I prepared for our charge conference, I did a preliminary check of our average weekly worship attendance for 2011 and compared it with the full year worship attendance of last year. Last year we reported for the full year an average attendance of 85. Given that just six or seven years ago our attendance was almost double that, 85 was a very disappointing number to report.

This year through Oct 16 (the Sunday before Charge Conference) we had averaged 85 people a week. That looks pretty much like the same number doesn’t it? That might seem like another disappointment but I am encouraged and so should you be. The fact of the matter is that the average weekly worship attendance almost always goes up from

October through December. Unless something disastrous takes place we will this year, 2011, report an increase in worship attendance for the first time in 11 years. It will be a small difference probably. Maybe we’ll get up to 87 or 88 people a week as our annual average but it will be the first increase of any size in a mighty long time.

Couple that with the fact that we have already received more new members in 2011 than we have in any of the last 5 years (with more to come), take into consideration that we have paid our Apportionments in full and on time for the last three years and are on schedule to do so again this year and I see that we have turned a corner.

Are we out of the woods? I don’t know if any church is ever out of the woods. Progress can always be stopped but it certainly doesn’t have to be. There is cause to celebrate here. There is concrete

Continued on pg. 3.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. —Isaiah 58:10

Sunday, November 20, Calvary's United Methodist Men will distribute to each family a Advent Devotional. This devotional, titled "Passing the Peace," was supplied to us free of charge by The Society of Saint Andrew. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, and ends on Christmas Day. As most of you know, Advent is the season that celebrates the coming of Christ. Christ came as the baby Jesus many years ago and will come again in the future; Christ is waiting to come into your hearts.

The UMM's goal is to raise funds for the Society of Saint Andrew (SoSA) to feed the hungry in this country. We will explain our mission when the Devotionals are distributed. It is also our desire that those who do a daily family devotion will include this material into their devotion time; and that those who do not have a daily family devotion will use this small booklet to begin one.

The Advent Devotional, Passing the Peace, contains: Daily scripture, prayer, and reflections on how we might Pass the Peace as we welcome the Prince of Peace this Advent. It will nourish your spirit and also help to feed your hungry neighbors.

Our suggestions on how you may give to feed the hungry in the USA, will all be explained when we give the devotionals on November 20th. We strongly encourage all of you to start a daily family devotion this Advent season, and you may be motivated to purchase a devotional and continue with your study of God's Word in the New Year.

What we give is the measure for God's blessings to us—multiplied many times over.

Your brother in Christ,
Gary W. Hall

Join Us at Sight & Sound Theatre



United Methodist Women are planning an overnight trip on Saturday April 21, 2012 to see Jonah at Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA.

PRICES (see break-out below)

Dinner (at Good & Plenty) & Jonah Show - \$86.10
Sleep Inn & Suites - \$88.80

<u>Hotel Rates</u>	<u>Total</u> <i>(show, dinner & hotel)</i>
Single Room - \$88.80	\$174.90
Double Room - \$44.40	\$130.50
Triple Room - \$29.60	\$115.70
Quad Room - \$22.20	\$108.30

TRIP SCHEDULE

Saturday

8:00 am - Depart Calvary
10:00 am - Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
11:00 am - Arrive in Lancaster, PA
11:30 am - Free Time (Shopping & Sight Seeing)
3:00 pm - Check in at Hotel
5:00 pm - Dinner at Good & Plenty
7:30 pm - Jonah Show

Sunday

9:00 am - Breakfast at Hotel
10:00 am - Devotion & Prayer
11:00 am - Leaving for Home

Deposit of \$25.00 required by January 31st. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. Contact Stacy Feldman at 301-807-1861 if interested in going.

My Brother's Keeper

Remembering the Sick and Shut-in

—Often it's easy to forget about those members we don't see from Sunday to Sunday. However, they are still part of the Calvary Church Family and I'm sure would be happy to hear from us from time to time. During the holiday season especially, let's remember to express our love and concern for them by sending a card or making a quick phone call to say hello. The following members are on Calvary's Sick and Shut-in list:

Ethel Bowling (301) 934-1900
Charles County Nursing Home, Room # 123
10200 La Plata Road
La Plata, MD 20646

Marie Bowling (301) 292-5622
Charles County Nursing Home
10200 La Plata Road
La Plata, MD 20646

Mary Cross (301) 870-4855
2555 Magdalene Acres Place
Waldorf, MD 20603

Mary Daniels (301) 645-2434
327 Garner Avenue
Waldorf, MD 20602

Darlene Keller (301) 932-0771
9242 Mimosa Drive
La Plata, MD 20646

Helen Ott (301) 632-6770
3876 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, MD 20602

Calvary Welcomes New Members

—Several new members have joined Calvary during the past month. Each has been assigned sponsors; however, it is important that we all continue to welcome them and make them feel right at home. Although some have been attending Calvary regularly for some time now, you will not find most of

these new members listed in our membership telephone directory. So as an addendum to the directory, please update your personal copy to include the following new members' contact information:

Rachel Christmas (sponsor, Stacy Feldman)
3875 Shinar Court
Waldorf, MD 20603
410-903-5957 (home)

Myrtle Cooksey (sponsor, Norma Bradbury)
11080 Weymouth Court, Apt. 418
Waldorf, MD 20603
301-645-2875 (home)

Luke & Betty Lyon (sponsors: Keith & Carrie Akins)
Samantha Lyon (daughter)
6104 McKay Drive
Brandywine, MD 20613
240-416-7531 (Luke's cell)
443-253-6501 (Betty's cell)

Nancy McConkey (sponsor, Marsha Thompson)
6306 Buttercup Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-599-5364 (home)

PARSON TO PARSON

(Continued from Pg. 1)

reason to have hope. We are a growing congregation, Praise the Lord! We need to keep working. We need to build on this bit of momentum. We have to embrace our vision of a "diverse, multi-generational congregation proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to our community..." and continue to put it to work for us—for God. God asks no less of us now than he asked in 2006 or 2007 or 1986 or 1987. We are called to serve. We must answer that call if we are to be the church God put us here to be. Let's make an impact on this community. Let's change some lives, save some souls, deepen some faith. That's who we say we are when we say we are the church.

God Bless,

Pastor Rob

Children's Sunday School



November Lessons

Nov. 6 - (Psalm 150)

Children will learn different ways we can praise God. Praising God is something they can do anytime and any place. Psalm 150 is a psalm of praise.

Nov. 13 - THE VALLEY OF PRAISE (2 Chronicles 20: 14-21)

Children can learn to praise God with their voices. They can do this by singing and shouting and praying.

Nov. 20 - GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE (Ezra 3: 10-13)

We share a time of praising God in our church, sanctuary or temple. Children will learn they can worship God not just in the church, but at home and other places.

Nov. 27 - JOSIAH (Psalm 148)

Children will hear how all creation can praise God for sending Jesus and there are many ways and places to praise God. This Sunday is also the first Sunday in Advent and a time for celebration.

Funnies

The Children of Israel

A little boy listened closely as the preacher read the Bible. "May I ask a question?" he asked. "Sure, go ahead. Ask your question," the preacher replied. "Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?"



We're thankful for you!

Youth Ministry Paintball Field

Preparation for the paintball field is on-going. Logan Marsh, Youth Ministry Leader, has been seen working hard in the field, during his spare time, in an attempt to get it cleared as soon as possible. When asked about his vision for the project, he responded, "I see this as ministry outreach to youth of all ages—throughout our communities; to provide a safe, fun environment where they can come and enjoy a positive fellowship with their peers."

The Ministry is appreciative of all the help received so far; volunteers are still needed to continue clearing the field. See Logan for more details on how you can help the Ministry attain its goal.



"Trunk or Treat" Food Drive—A Tremendous Success!

By Cheryl Merkle

Sunday, October 30th members and friends of Calvary UMC held a "Trunk or Treat" Food Drive. This event was part of the larger Baltimore Washington Conference "Changing Our World" movement. Members and friends of Calvary decorated and displayed their car trunks and gave out candy to "trunk or treaters." This is the first time in several years we've done this, and Calvary and the community really supported our efforts.

Sixteen vehicles were decorated; ranging from gigantic spider webs with strobe lights, to orange pumpkin trunks. There was even a purple sock monkey popping up to say "Boo" to the Trunk or treaters. Those who did not wish to decorate their trunks still

dropped by to donate non-perishable food items to support the worthwhile event. Some trunkers dressed in costume to help everyone enjoy the festivities. Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, a Pumpkin and Scarecrow handed out candy. Pictures will be posted on the bulletin board. Stop by to check out the creativity and to see how much fun we had!

The Community was invited to walk through to see the displays, donate non-perishable food items and receive Halloween "treats" in return. We had a fantastic turnout and estimate that just under 100 "Trunk or Treaters" came through. Some made cash donations; others donated canned food. Some even left and returned with food donations. All were

offered a Max Lucado 3:16 devotional book, "Shine with the Light of Jesus," pumpkin stickers and literature on Calvary and it's food pantry. We collected 4 shopping carts of food (328 pounds)! Food and monetary donations went directly to Calvary's Food Pantry which has already served nearly 700 people this year.

Participation in the event was not just about having a lot of fun but also a great way to connect with our community, to make a difference in the lives of those around us and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks again for your generous support. We look forward to doing this again next year. ~

A Great Gift Idea for that Special Lady on Your Christmas List

—Not sure what to get that special lady for Christmas? Why not give a Women of Faith Gift Certificate? Guys, this is a great way to bless that special lady in your life.

Calvary has reserved 25 tickets for the 2012 WOF Conference (Aug. 17-18 at the Verizon Center.) We have fabulous seats reserved in section 111 and tickets are \$101, group rate (See October newsletter article for more details). Most of the tickets have already been reserved but we are offering gift certificates to be used for the purchase of WOF tickets. Has your special sweetie already made a deposit on a ticket? See Dawn Townsend or Cheryl Merkle to purchase a gift certificate for part or all of the remaining ticket balance. If a ticket hasn't been reserved but you would like to bless your special lady with one, you can purchase a gift certificate for the full ticket price.

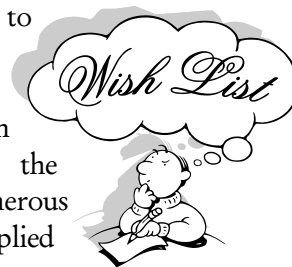
The theme verse for the 2012 conference is Zephaniah 3:17—*"The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will CELEBRATE over you with singing.*

To learn more about Women of Faith, visit www.womenoffaith.com and select the "Celebrate" link.

What's on Your Christmas Wish List?

Thanks again to everyone who donated paper to the church office during the year. Your generous donations supplied enough paper to last into October, enabling us to substantially reduce expenditures for office supplies. Again this year, my Christmas wish list is simple . . . your donations of letter size (8 1/2 x 11) copier paper to the church office during the holiday season will be most appreciated.

—Mildred



News from **THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

By Shirley Page

Members continue to work on items for the November 19 Craft Fair. In addition to selling a variety of hand-crafted items, we will have a table of homemade bake goods for sale (and we are good cooks).

The "Hospice Festival of Trees" project is on schedule and Sandy reminded us that the "tree fluffing and decorating" begins on Sunday, November 20, at the Jaycee Hall in Waldorf (participating members of the Club will be going after Church).

Our next birthday luncheon will be held November 21 at Mimi's Café and we're looking forward to a good time.

We're still making plans for our Christmas party on December 5, at the home of Rebecca Morris. Dominos, fun and games, good food (pot luck), exchanging of gifts (\$5.00 limit), crowning of "Queen for the Day" and "Queen for the Year" will be our usual fare. We plan on concluding the party by singing our favorite Christmas carols which really puts us in the holiday mood.

The holiday season can be a lonely time for those who cannot get out. We would like to remind everyone that it is important to visit or send cards to those who are shut-in. Refer to the article on page 3 for a list (with contact information) of Calvary's sick and shut-ins.

Ruth Taylor was hostess for our November 7 Club meeting and, as usual, delighted us with delicious cake and ice cream.

Continue to watch our Calvary HORIZONS newsletters for updates from the Friendship Club. ~



Calvary's Coat Drive through Nov 13th has collected more than 75 coats according to coordinator Andy Anderson. Nov. 14 Andy picked up all the coats delivered so far and took them to the Men's Shelter in Waldorf, The women's Shelter in Hughesville, Children's Aid and Lifestyles in La Plata. During this drive, we are partnering with Dry Clean Central on 301 in Waldorf and Wal-Mart, and it isn't over until the end of November so keep those coats coming.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED



Calvary's mission to continue offering food assistance to those in need has not gone unnoticed. In addition to the 328 pounds of non-perishable food collected during

Food Pantry

their "Trunk or Treat" Food Drive last month, the Pantry recently received a generous donation from its local Cub Scout troopers.

Saturday, November 12, Cub Scout Troop #424 participated in its annual "Scouting for Food" expedition. The Cubs collected a total of 656 pounds of non-perishable food which was donated to Calvary's Food Pantry.

Tuesday, November 15, a member of the Quilters Guild drop off another large donation of food collected by Cub Scout Troop #417 which is sponsored by Saint Peters Church.

Calvary's Health and Welfare Committee expresses extreme gratitude to all who devoted time and effort to help stock the Pantry for the winter, and encourages your continued donations as the need for assistance increases during the holiday season. ~

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

Bradley Dean	2
Darla Anne Fields	2
Rachel Christmas	4
Ricky Blevins	5
Marie Bowling	7
Afton Lee Vera Fields	10
Carl Fischer	12
Ed Van Cleaf	16
Becky Merkle	19
Russell Milheim	19
Rebecca Morris	22
Dawn Talley	23

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morris	12
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Read Any Good Books Lately?

Bill Olsen recently donated the following books to Calvary's library. Stop by to check them out:

"Thunder Dog"— by Michael Hingson

The true story of a blind man, his guide dog and the triumph of trust at ground zero. Totally blind since birth, Mr. Hingson and his guide dog, Roselle, and his friend, David, traversed the 78 floors—some 1463 steps, of the first twin tower to help lead many people to safety on 9/11/01. This book gives great insight to what blind people can accomplish. Bill and his friend, Mary, had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hingson, who gave him some great tips about things he can do to make his life easier.

"Chicken Soup for the Soul" — by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hensen

This book inspires the reader and helps us remember the important things in life—love, connection and gratitude. "We need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need twelve hugs a day for growth."— Virginia Satir

"Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul" — by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hensen

"What a celebration of love and life! Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, looking to comfort a grieving friend or searching for hope and inspiration, you'll be able to find it in *Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul*. This book shows us that no life is without meaning and no story of grief written without caring, compassionate love. It is filled with heartwarming, inspirational and uplifting stories that will bring a tear to your eye and a smile to your lips while soothing the grieving soul." —Patricia Loder, executive director, The Compassionate Friends, Inc.

"How to Survive the Loss of a Love" — by Harold H. Bloomfield, M.D., Melba Colgrove, PH.D & Peter McWilliams

"When an emotional injury takes place, the body begins a process as natural as the healing of a physical wound. Let the process happen. Trust the process. Surrender to it." "One of the ten most

recommended books by clinical psychologists to their clients."—The New York Times

"Heaven is for Real" — by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent

"A beautifully written glimpse into heaven that will encourage those who doubt and thrill those who believe."— Ron Hall, co-author of *Same Kind of Different As Me*

"You will be moved by the honest, simple, childlike account of a little boy who has been to heaven. It's compelling and convincing. It's a book you should read. If you're ready to go to heaven, this book will inspire you. If you're not ready for heaven, allow a little child to lead you. Like Colton says, *Heaven is for Real*." — Don Piper, Speke and Author, 90 Minutes in Heaven. ~



A Note from Bill

Assistance for the disabled—When I became legally blind in 1992, assistance was rendered by the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Their local office is located in the Smallwood building on highway 301. DORS provides a variety of vocational services to assistance people with disabilities at no cost. Additionally, books can be downloaded to a digital player through the Library of Congress at no cost to disabled individuals. The Library in Maryland, funded by the State and the Federal government, is located in Baltimore. Applications can be downloaded from a computer so it's not necessary to leave home to obtain these services. Many states also have similar programs and the DORS can assist in locating them. See Bill Olsen for more details.

Upcoming Events

CRAFT FAIR

November 19th

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair will be held on November 19th 8am to 2pm. There will be vendors from Mary Kay Cosmetics, Thirty-One Gifts, Premier Design Jewelry, Scentsy Candles and Pampered Chef. Other crafters will be making homemade items like Redskins paraphernalia, jewelry, cakes and pumpkin rolls and many more items. Come check it Out!

UMW's Annual Tea Party

December 3rd

2:00 PM

(RSVP by Friday, November 25th)

Sight & Sound Theatre

(Sponsored by the UMW)

April 21, 2012

Show: Jonah

(Details on pg. 2)



A THANKSGIVING DINNER

by Maude M. Grant

Take a turkey, stuff it fat,
Some of this and some of that.
Get some turnips, peel them well.
Cook a big squash in its shell.
Now potatoes, big and white,
Mash till they are soft and light.
Cranberries, so tart and sweet,
With the turkey we must eat.
Pickles-yes-and then, oh my!
For a dessert a pumpkin pie,
Golden brown and spicy sweet.
What a fine Thanksgiving treat!



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STAMP

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

Calvary

HORIZONS

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

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