



Calvary United Methodist Church

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PARSON TO PERSON

A Message from Pastor Rob Carter

A Call to Action

Ever wonder how to measure a church’s vitality? In response to the United Methodist Church’s two generation long decline in membership, The United Methodist Council of Bishops commissioned a study to help identify what makes a vital congregation.

The study revealed the statistics of 33,000 churches and found that nearly 5,000 over a five year period were growing and engaging a greater percentage of their membership in worship and ministry.

The study further examined these churches and found that they shared at least 16 ministries/strategies in common. The study called these “drivers of vitality” and indicated that if churches worked on these 16 drivers they would move toward vitality. The drivers that were identified are:

1. more small groups for all ages;
2. more programs for children;
3. more programs for youth;
4. increasing effectiveness of lay leaders;
5. lay leaders who demonstrate a vital personal faith;
6. emphasize rotating lay leadership to involve more people over time;
7. call, equip, use and support more lay leaders than non-vital churches;



8. pastors give attention to developing, coaching, and mentoring lay leadership;
9. pastors use their influence to increase the participation of others to accomplish change in the church;
10. pastors motivate congregation to set and achieve significant goals;
11. pastors inspire through preaching;
12. pastors when serving effectively stay for a longer period of time;
13. offer a mix of contemporary and traditional services;
14. preachers use topical sermon series;
15. use more contemporary music; and
16. use more multi-media in contemporary services.

Calvary United Methodist Men

“ENCOURAGEMENT”

One dictionary describes encouragement: “An expression of approval, the act of giving hope or support to someone; Commendation, cheering, a morale booster or a vote of confidence.”

John Wesley, in his Life Application Topic – *Encouragement*, explains it this way:

In the French language the word *encourage* literally means “to put the heart in.” So, to encourage means “to put the heart into people.” To *discourage* means “to tear the heart out.”

This is precisely what Paul is doing in his letters to the Thessalonians, encouraging them to stay strong in the faith, to trust what he taught them, to stand strong against persecution, to do their best and to trust God for the rest.

William Barclay wrote in his commentary, *The Letters to the Hebrews*: “One of the highest of human duties is the duty of Encouragement—it is easy to laugh at men’s ideals; it is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of thanks, or praise, or appreciation, or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is a man who speaks such a word.”

Have you ever known someone who believed in you, who frequently spoke words of encouragement and praise; the kind of person who made you feel like

you could do almost anything? That’s the kind of person God wants us to be.

Paul gave us good advice in Ephesians 4:29: “Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Pray to God to help you recognize the power of encouragement—to encourage one another—to say encouraging words, not discouraging words. Everyone wants to be appreciated. That’s only human nature. The United Methodist Men meet on the first Saturday of each month and hope you will join us. We will do our best to *encourage you* and make you feel welcome.

Encouraging Words:

If you’re alone, I’ll be your shadow. If you want to cry, I’ll be your shoulder. If you want a hug, I’ll be your pillow. If you need to be happy, I’ll be your smile. But anytime you need a friend, I’ll just be me. —Author Unknown.

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.

God loves you and we love you!

Your brother in Christ,
Gary W. Hall

PARSON TO PERSON

(Continued from Pg. 1)

These drivers have to be considered in each church’s local context and it would be ridiculous to think that any church could work on them all at once, but we have been charged by the Annual Conference to present a Call to Action plan at Charge Conference this fall. We will be talking about this at upcoming Church Council

meetings. There are training events offered by the Annual Conference to help us in the development of this plan and I’d encourage the lay leadership of our church to consider attending one of these events (July 23, 9:30 - noon at the Conference Center in Fulton, August 27, 9:00 – 11:30 at Calvary Church in Annapolis, and August 27, 2:00 - 4:30 at Trinity in Prince Frederick). Right now I can go to any of them and will choose one. If one or

several people from the Calvary Shiloh Charge prefer one of these dates or places we could go together, car pool and learn and talk about this together. I await your response.

Church vitality has been a matter of concern and discussion at both Calvary and Shiloh in recent years and this could be a push that will move us toward that goal—I pray so.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob

Children's Sunday School

July Lessons

July 3 - Elijah the Challenger (1 Kings 18:20-39)
Children will learn the story of Elijah building an altar to God out of 12 stones. They will learn how Elijah stood alone proclaiming God is the one true God.

July 10 - Jonah (Book of Jonah)
Jonah did not listen to God when told to go to Nineveh to tell the people to stop sinning. He ran away. The children will hear how Jonah was swallowed up by a big fish. God is always with us and gives us the help we need.

July 17 - Jesus Calms the Storm (Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41): Jesus We can depend on God. He is present whenever we are afraid for any reason. The children will learn about Jesus and the disciples crossing the sea during a storm.

July 24 - Down the Wall (Mark 10:46-52)
This story is about Paul's escape down the wall. Sometimes we are asked to do things that may be difficult. But God is always with us. God hears our prayers.

July 31 - Shipwrecked (Acts 26-27)
Children will learn the story of Paul on a ship that was wrecked by a storm. During the storm, Paul told the men to be brave and have faith in God. Sometimes we go through difficulties. We may not have been through a storm, but we need to depend on God. His love is always with us.

August Lessons

Aug. 7 - Naaman and the Servant Girl (2 Kings 5:1-14)
Naaman had a skin disease. His wife's servant girl told her how Naaman could be healed if he went to see Elisha. The children will learn that we show love by telling others things that will help.

Aug. 14 - The Centurion's Servant (Luke 7:1-10)
You show love for others by helping them. This biblical story is about the faith of a soldier who asked Jesus to heal his servant. Children will learn that they can help others and also about having faith.

Aug. 21 - Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42)
Dorcas was a kind and caring person. She was always helping the poor. She showed her love for others by making many clothes. Children will learn we can help by sharing clothes. Giving your out grown clothes to others is one way of helping.

Aug. 28 - The Offering for Jerusalem (Acts 11:19-30)
Barnabas needed Saul's help in leading the church in Antioch. They taught many people how to help one another and how churches can help each other. Children will learn sharing food and money is helping others, just like the church in Antioch shared food and money.



Brayden Fields - 6th Birthday
Haley Johnson - 8th Birthday
Jourdan Moore - 4th Birthday

Funny Things Kids Say

Good Samaritan

A Sunday School teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."



Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he with just two worms?"

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) 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. ~



Calvary's Friendship Club Recalls outreach to struggling Philadelphia school

By Rebecca Morris

Jean Turner shared with us about Susan, her granddaughter, and the Kipp Charter School in Philadelphia. The school started out with a principal and a few teachers. In the early years, Kipp struggled with having no heat. The Friendship Club made a donation to purchase hats for the students and teachers. The Club also donated lap robes and afghans. The school was so thankful for the donations and to show their appreciation, during a field trip to Washington, DC, the bus pulled in to Calvary the students and teachers sang for the Friendship Club.

Since its beginning, Kipp has grown to grades 5-8. After graduating from the eighth grade, students are placed in high schools throughout Philadelphia. Susan, who is now Department Head of the Alumni, attended the graduation of each student from that first class, and now Kipp will see them through college.

The school continues to thrive and this year, celebrated its first Annual Pennant ceremony and dinner. Students were each given a pennant of the college they will attend. Jean attended the celebration and received many hugs for the donations made by the Friendship Club. Kipp Charter School continues to remember and appreciate the true outreach from Calvary's Friendship Club. ~

WHY PRAY?

Since God knows all our thoughts even before we have them and knows what's going to happen, why pray? Well, I can think of several great reasons to pray. Here are just a few:

COMMUNICATION - We all can use someone to talk with. Can we find a better listener? We form a relationship with family and friends by talking with them. Jesus came before God to express His deep agony and to pray for the disciples, even though He already knew He would be led to the Cross. Like Jesus, we all want to talk with someone who loves us and is concerned about us. We need to get to know Him.

HUMILITY - Sometimes we need to remind ourselves of our place of humility and to remember that God is God and we are not. Knowing this to be true, encourages faith, not anxiety or worry. We need Him.

TRANSFORMATION - To submit ourselves to God changes us. God loves us enough to want to transform us into all that He created us to be. We must cooperate in that transformation. Every time we pray, we cooperate a little bit more. We need to trust Him.



SEEK GOD'S WILL - In many life situations we don't know God's will until we pray. We want to be in line with God's will for us. Prayer is not so much about changing God's mind, but about bringing ourselves into alignment with God's heart. We need to seek His will for us.

MAKE REQUEST KNOWN - As we align with God's will, we can call out to God on behalf of others as well as ourselves. God expects us to be intercessors. In asking, we acknowledge our dependence on Him. We need to ask Him to help us and those we care about.

PEACE - Prayer brings peace. When we are burdened with troubles in our personal lives or

the world around us, we can find peace when we pray; knowing God is beside us and listening—peace that someday we will meet our Savior and live eternally with Him. We need to find that peace that only comes from knowing Him.

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING - When praying, we should give God all the glory and praise for who He is; acknowledging Him as our awesome Savior, Creator, and Ruler of Everything—being thankful for all our blessings and the privilege of being able to come to Him in prayer. We need to lift Him up in praise!

To sum up, talk with God. Let Him know how much you need Him. Allow Him to make changes in you when you need changing. Find His will for your life. Be intercessors for those who need you to be. Find His gift of peace, and thank Him for creating you in His image. The closer you get to Christ, the more you will understand His will for your life. He will speak to you through prayer. Pray! Pray! Pray!

Becky Merkle,
Prayer Partners

For more information about the Prayer Partners, contact Becky at (301) 274-5837.



Newsletter Announcement

It's summer—the time of the year when families take those much needed vacations, and a few of the ministries at Calvary go on break. So what does this have to do with the newsletter? Church activities decline during summer months so there's not much to report. We do hope you've enjoyed this "summer issue." Production of the newsletter will resume in September.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 11-15
5:30 - 7:45 PM

Theme: Island Odyssey

(To the ends of the earth with Jesus Christ!)



OVERVIEW: Island Odyssey VBS 2011 links biblical island stories with the culture of popular island vacation spots. This Bible & Arts program provides opportunity for persons of all ages to know Jesus and desire the spread of the Gospel all over the world.

Starting with Paul's evangelistic island encounters, Island Odyssey will teach the good news through story, music, art, foods, crafts, movement and drama. Participants will:

- Experience how hearing, seeing, and believing are connected
- Understand that knowing Jesus influences decision-making
- Realize that a welcoming spirit brings glory to God
- Be encouraged to spread the good news of Jesus Christ all over the world!

Call the church office to register your child to attend: (301) 645-5247.



Summer Music

Our choir is on summer break. Solos, duets and groups, and instrumentalists are needed for special music this summer. The sign up sheet is on the door of the choir room. Please consider taking one of the vacant slots.



Ushers Ministry

We have a new coordinator, Bertie McConnell. Contact Bertie at (301) 752-4711 with questions or concerns about the Ministry and to sign-up for usher duty.

Meals-on-Wheels Program

DRIVERS NEEDED!

Meals-on-Wheels Program provides meals to seniors throughout the country.

Seniors who could not or would not otherwise eat properly are provided with services that help them live a healthy and enjoyable life.

Waldorf Meals-on-Wheels delivers meals to seniors throughout the Charles County area, and are in need of [volunteers to drive once a month.](#)

To sign up, call Kathy Gremis, program coordinator, at **(301) 843-8295.**



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays

Michael Vickery	1
Mildred Dent	6
Robert Taylor	7
Susan Cunningham	11
Andy Anderson	11
Calvin McMillion	12
Merge Walcavich	16
Martha Anderson	17
Ruth Taylor	17
John R. Roberts	18
Everett Currie	21
Marcelino J. Santos	21
Doris Berger	23
Pastor James Chance	23
Bertie McConnell	27
Jay Johnston	28
Dayne Fields	30

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Auth	19
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Musterer	19

August Birthdays

Kellee Milheim	4
Isaiah John	4
Jean Turner	5
Marisa Santos	6
Gail Van Cleaf	9
Michelle Broadwater	10
Zacheus Maggett	13
Brayden Fields	14
John Campbell	14
Wayne Welsh	18
Patricia King	20
Darlene Wilkerson	21
Raymond Schliep	25
Tammy Fowler	27
Shirley Frahm	31

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Blevins	13
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vickery	19



Corn Roast

Annual Ferrell/McConnell Corn Roast

July 10, 2011

Come out and feast on fresh corn on the cob with all the fixings at our annual corn roast on Sunday, July 10th. On this day, Calvary and Shiloh will fellowship together at Calvary. Service time has been adjusted to begin at 11am (For this Sunday only). After worship, we'll enjoy our usual feast of hamburgers, hot dogs with all the fixings and lots of fresh corn on the cob. Members are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert to fill out the menu.

There is no charge for the meal but a free-will offering is appreciated if you so desire to give. This is always a great time of fellowship and everyone is invited.

Since the roast is the second Sunday of July and that's Shiloh's communion Sunday, Calvary has postponed communion on our usual first Sunday and will share in communion with our brothers and sisters from Shiloh on the second Sunday, the 10th.

A Flash from the Past!

Do you recognize this adorable child?



Answer on back page.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

July - September 2011

July 10

Annual Corn Roast - 12:00 PM
(following 11:00am Service)

Sept. 17

Monthly Meeting/Fish Fry
4:00 PM



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STAMP

Visit Calvary on the Internet:
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Calvary

HORIZONS

The Newsletter of
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Deadline for input in next issue: 8/15/11

FLASH FROM THE PAST

(Answer)

That adorable little child is Jean Turner.