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PARSON TO PERSON

A Message from Pastor Rob Carter

A Whole New Year

Don't you just love a New Year? It's such an open book. It seems like we can make what we want of it so we make resolutions to lose ten or eighty pounds, quit smoking, read the Bible everyday, come to church more often, get more exercise, visit our loved ones more . . . In January it seems like we can make our lives better and more productive. And why not? We make fun of New Year's resolutions but anything that makes us try to do better for ourselves and for others is OK with me. Try it—the worst that can happen is you fail and end up the same as you are now. That's not much of a risk is it? It's true we can resolve to any of those things on our list at any time of the year but the New Year is such a suggestive time.

I'm thinking about offering some resolutions for Calvary in 2012 but maybe it would help to first look at 2011. We took in six new members with several more about to be received early this year. I mentioned in an earlier Horizons that I was sure that our average worship attendance would increase this year. It did—from 85 in 2010 to 86 in 2011; a small increase to be sure, but the first increase of any kind in a decade. Our Church Council



worked with our District Superintendent to finish a planning process begun in the fall of 2010 and arrived at a new vision statement which has seemingly revitalized our work together in ministry. We conducted a confirmation class jointly with Shiloh where one of those new members learned about the faith. We conducted a Calvary Vacation Bible School for the first time in several years. We held a very successful talent show to benefit Japan after that devastating earthquake and between the offering and the talent show/auction raised over \$1500. There was the Trunk or Treat/Food Drive for Halloween which offered a safe, fun way for between 70 and 80 children in the community to trick or treat in the church parking lot as well as received 300 + pounds of food for the Food Pantry. We distributed New

OCC in Georgia *By Cheryl Merkle*

Ever wonder where your Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoe Box gift was sent? Cheryl and Dale Merkle report that some shoe boxes from Calvary were delivered to the country of Georgia (former USSR).

The OCC website provides the following statistics on Georgia:

Sixteen percent of Georgia's 4.5 million people are 14-years-old or younger. In the 2011-2012 season, 122,400 shoe box gifts will be delivered to children in Georgia, which first received the gifts in 1997. Since then, 1,097,993 children in Georgia have received a shoe box gift.

Abkhazia is a small region on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, which is designated as an autonomous republic by the adjacent country of Georgia. In the 2011-2012 season, 6,600 shoe box gifts will be delivered to children in Abkhazia, which first received the gifts in 2007. Since then, 42,318 children in Abkhazia have received a shoe box gift.

In 2010, Operation Christmas Child began offering a new, follow-up discipleship program to our ministry partners in conjunction with the shoe box gifts. This year in Georgia, these Bible lessons will be offered to 8,700 children who receive a shoe box gift.

The greatest journey begins when children are freely offered Gospel storybooks along with their shoe boxes. The Greatest Gift of All booklets—printed in over 70 languages—contain colorful illustrations that explain the Good News of Jesus Christ in a simple, engaging style.

After receiving a shoe box gift, boys and girls are invited to

participate in the voluntary Bible study course produced by Samaritan's Purse. The 12-lesson set guides children through a study of who Jesus Christ is, what it means to follow Him, and how to share this exciting message with others.

To help these boys and girls continue to grow in their faith, we also want to provide them with their own copies of the Greatest Gift of All New Testament. This special edition also includes select Old Testament stories, a dictionary, and a section that encourages the children to memorize Scripture.

Lonely No Longer—Local volunteers reported: "Sandro, a 13-year-old boy with cerebral spastic infantile paralysis, had never had friends and could not play with other kids. He felt lonely because of the disease. Sandro attended the shoe box distribution, received a shoe box, and heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since that time, he has been regularly attending church ministry and feels much better spiritually."

If you paid for your OCC shoe box shipping on-line, you may receive an email about where your shoe box gift was sent. We'd love to hear more shoe box stories! ~



Dale Merkle with shoe box collection at Calvary.

Health & Welfare 2011 Overview

By Marsha Thompson

The Committee reports the following activities during 2011:

Twenty Gideon Bibles were sent in memory of family members and friends who passed away during the year. Cards were sent, gift baskets and inspirational books were delivered to members who were sick and/or had surgery, and to our shut-ins. Four dinner meals were prepared and delivered to the Women's Shelter in Hughesville; Financial assistance was given for electric bills, rent, and gas.

The Food Pantry served 1003 adults and 890 children during the year (excluding the number of people who received emergency food through the church office if the Pantry was closed).

We received, for free, approximately 325 cases of commodity food from the State of MD and 254 cases from the Southern MD Food Bank (SMDFB). Also, we purchased over 4000 lbs of food from SMDFB. September we participated in a food drive, sponsored by SMDFB, at Charles County Fair.

Thank you to Club Scout Troop #424 from Calvary, Scout #417 from St. Peters Church and the Outreach Committee for the collection of over 1200 lbs of food; thanks to the Quilter Club for the donation of food; thanks to Stacy Feldman for the monetary donations from the vendor and craft fair; Special thanks to Calvary's parishioners who gave a total of \$948 to the H & W Committee in the month of December; thank you to the members who made food

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Children's Sunday School



January Lessons

January 1 - THE WISE MEN (Matthew 2:1-12)

The story of the wisemen will be told to the children. They will learn about the gifts we can give Jesus, such as being kind and sharing our talents. By helping others we can honor Jesus.

Jan. 8 - JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AT TWELVE (Luke 2:41-52)

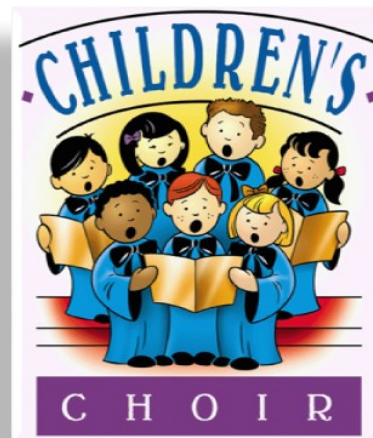
The children will learn about Jesus when he was twelve years old. They will learn that no matter what age they are, they are important to the church.

Jan. 15 - JESUS' BAPTISM (Mark 1:4-11)

The Biblical story of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist will be told to the children. They will learn that water is a symbol of baptism and new life. They will learn there are many uses for water.

Jan. 22 - JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY (Luke 4:14-22)

This week is about Jesus' ministry. The children will learn that Jesus was teaching the people about God's love. They will learn that Jesus was only twelve years old when he sat in the temple with the teachers.



New Children's Choir

I am very excited about Calvary's new Children's Choir! If you missed their first performance on Dec. 18, they came up the aisle singing Joy to the World, then sang and signed Silent Night. What a great job they did! We only had a few practices where they were all together; I am so proud of each of them. We will continue to sing God's praises and, we have something special planned for Easter. All of Calvary's children are welcome to join us.

—Becky Merkle



Children's Church Resumes

January 22, 2012

Start the new year out right—bring your child to Children's Church at 11:00 on Sunday mornings. Children ages 4-12 will participate in Children's Church and the nursery will be available for those under 4. While the children are enjoying their worship service, parents are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to attend adult Sunday School. Lisa Brown, Director of Children's Church, will be asking the Youth Ministry to assistance with the service. Contact Lisa or Marlene Phillips for more details.

Adult II Sunday School Launches New Study Course

Our Sunday school 1100 class, with Wayne Welsh facilitating, is offering a study course from Max Lucado's best seller "No Wonder They Call Him the Savior." Please come and join us for the class program starting on February 6. There are three 10-week series for a total of 30 sessions. The first is on the words He spoke on the cross, the second is on the witness's viewpoints of the crucifixion and the third is on wisdom from the cross or put another way, the meaning and significance of his suffering, death and resurrection. Anyone can join at any time. The format is such that each lesson is independent of the other, so those interested can feel free to come when they can. Anyone interested in attending need not worry about registration as we will have

sufficient materials for all.

If you are not familiar with Max Lucado, he is one of the most popular Christian writers and speakers of our day.

"Max Lucado takes you through the drama of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—bringing to life Peter's denial, Pilate's hesitancy, and John's loyalty. Relive the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, from the foggy garden of Gethsemane to the incandescent room of the resurrection.

"No Wonder They Call Him the Savior" leads you up the hill of mankind's highest hope and reminds you why he deserves to be called our Savior.

Please come and join us for this experience. ~

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Ever thought what a great opportunity it would be if our church provided a group Bible Study during a weekday? That thought could become a reality depending upon



feedback from Calvary's congregation.

Are you available during a weekday? Have you been missing out on a Bible Study? Have you been longing for a closer walk with God through His Word? Then contact Sharon French or Dawn Townsend by Sunday, February 5th, to propose a weekday and time that works best for your schedule. Also, be sure to offer your personal suggestions regarding studies or topics you wish this group to explore (i.e., favorite books of the Bible, spiritual authors, off-the-shelf group studies, non-fictional books, etc.). Thank you in advance for your interest and input. More information will be provided at a later date.

PARSON TO PERSON

(Continued from Pg. 1)

Testaments and invitations to our Advent/Christmas services to two communities nearby. We held an Advent Study this year based on Adam Hamilton's "The Journey" in which 22 people participated. The Calvary Food Pantry continued to offer food to hungry families twice a month. All this in addition to worship, choir, children's choir, Sunday School, Cub Scouts, Bible studies and more. There are plenty of other events and ministries large and small and I might have left out one you value highly but I think I've made my point. Things are looking up at Calvary. Some might say we have turned a corner. Now that's exciting. So for those resolutions:

1. Each of us invite a friend, neighbor, relative to church this year;

2. Increase our welcoming energy when someone visits;
3. Once again pay our apportionments to the conference, in full;
4. Continue and increase our outreach into the community. I'd love to see Calvary become known as the church which makes a difference in Waldorf; and
5. Have another Bible Study this winter/spring and one next fall.

These are just some ideas I had. Maybe you have your own—go for it!

Happy New Year and God Bless!

Pastor Rob

WOF Gift Certificates Are Here!

Men, this article is especially for you! Christmas is over and I'm sure many of us have had our share of gift buying stress, especially in trying to find that one-of-a-kind gift for the lovely ladies in our lives. But look out . . . just up ahead . . . can you see it? Here comes Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Easter, birthdays, and anniversaries! Oh no! What to do . . . what to buy? Well, the "no muss, no fuss" answer is right here! There is still time to purchase a Women of Faith Gift Certificate for that special lady in your life, no matter what the occasion. But definitely do not delay in purchasing a certificate by waiting for that upcoming, special occasion. You need to act NOW, there are only 7 available tickets remaining! We can also personalize your certificate with whatever message, occasion, scripture, etc. you desire.

The 2012 Women of Faith (WOF) Conference is Aug. 17-18 at the Verizon Center and our fabulous seats

are reserved in Section 111. The cost per ticket is \$101. You may purchase a gift certificate for the full amount if your special someone has not yet reserved a ticket. Or if your lady has already put down a deposit on her ticket for this event, you can purchase a gift certificate in the amount of her remaining balance to complete her payment in full.

Attending a WOF Conference might be the most appreciated and spirit-filled gift your lady could want to receive; just ask the 10,000+ women that attend every year. In a word, this event is AMAZING! Contact Dawn Townsend or Cheryl Merkle for your purchase or with any questions.

The WOF "Celebrate" theme verse for the 2012 event is, *"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.*

—Zephaniah 3:17

News from

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

By Shirley Page

Flashback to our December 5th Christmas Party: Chris Lick was crowned "Queen for the Day" in our morning domino play-off; she was also crowned "Queen for the Year." Congratulations to Chris for this distinct honor in both categories. Our sincere "thank you" goes to Rebecca Morris for being a wonderful hostess. As usual, we had a great time at the party.

We had our first meeting of the new year on Monday, January 2 and are looking forward to a great year. Doing more in the "outreach program" is one of our goals, plus trying to recruit new members. Also during the meeting, the Club voted to donate money to the St. Andrews Society (Feed the Hungry) project which is being sponsored by Calvary's United Methodist Men.

Sandy Livingston, our newest member in 2011, was a joy to have with us for a short while. We wish her the best in her new home in North Carolina.

Keep watch for more news from The Friendship Club. ~

Health & Welfare

(Continued from page 2)

baskets and to everyone for all the monetary and food donations through out the year.

We have two new volunteers—Shirley Page and Sharon French. Sharon started a coupon service for our clients and they seem to really appreciate this new service. We greatly appreciate our past and present volunteers.

Food pantry information is listed in the Charles County Directory of Human Services and the Community Crisis Services, Inc. ~

PAPER DRIVE

Please help restock our household paper products. The following items are needed:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper (4" wide rolls)
- Multi-fold Paper Towels (9.4 inches in length)
- Kleenex Tissues (small boxes)

See Doug Peters with donations or leave them in the shopping cart in the narthex.

**Calvary United Methodist Church
LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATION - 2012**

1. Offices

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

2. Committee on Staff-Parish Relations

Class of 2012: Ed Van Cleaf, Ramona Black
Class of 2013: Rebecca Morris (Chair), LaSage Mickinak
Class of 2014: Isaiah John, Kathie Auth
Conference Lay Member: Dale Merkle
Lay Leader: Andy Anderson

3. Board of Trustees

Class of 2012: Jennifer Santos, Stacy Feldman (Chair)
Class of 2013: Carrie Akins (Secretary), Everett Currie
Class of 2014: Logan Marsh, Ron Auth

Trustees Subcommittees

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

Groundskeeping: Everett Currie, Edsel Bradbury
Kitchen: Bertie McConnell (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 Rep., Trustees Representative,
 Church Council Chairperson
Financial Secretary: Kathy Peters
Treasurer: Bobby Russell

5. Lay Leadership Committee

Class of 2012: Myrtle Currie, Brenda Russell
Class of 2013: Ron Colby, Doris Sawyerr-Guest
Class of 2014: Janet Talbert, Robert Taylor

6. Communications Work Area

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

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: Ron Black

12. Youth Coordinator: Logan Marsh

13. Bereavement Committee: Friendship Club
 Janet Talbert

14. Prayer Partners: Becky Merkle

15. Education Work Area

Sunday School Superintendent: Marlene Phillips/
 Lisa Brown

Vacation Bible School: TBD
Assistant: TBD

16. United Methodist Men: Gary Hall (Pres.)
 Everett Currie (VP)

17. United Methodist Women: Marlene Phillips

18. Outreach Committee

Chair: Karen Smith
At Large: Dale Merkle, Cheryl Merkle
 Marlene Phillips, Andy Anderson
 Linda Anderson, Carolyn Carter

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Leadership Administration

(Continued from Pg. 6)

19. Health and Welfare Committee

Chairs: Kathy Peters, Marsha Thompson
Assistants: Janet Talbert, Ron Colby
 Jean Turner, Gene Talley

20. 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, Keith Akins,
 Bob Boettcher, Rusty Milheim,
 Emilia Milheim
Ushers: Bertie McConnell

21. 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
Bobby Russell	Brenda Russell

Church Council Members

Church Council Chair: Cheryl Merkle
Church Council Secretary: Dawn Townsend
Lay Leader: Andy Anderson
Trustees Chair: Stacy Feldman
Committee on Finance: Keith Akins
Financial Secretary/: Kathy Peters
 Health & Welfare Comm. Chair
SPRC Chair: Rebecca Morris
Sunday School Supt/: Marlene Phillips
 United Methodist Women Pres.
United Methodist Men Pres.: Gary Hall
Outreach Committee Chair: Karen Smith
Health & Welfare Comm. Chair: Marsha Thompson
At Large Members (See #21 above)

**Join Us at
Sight & Sound Theatre**



United Methodist Women are planning an overnight trip on Saturday April 21st to see Jonah at the 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

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

Upcoming Events

CHILI AND POTATO BAR

(sponsored by the UMW)

January 15

Stop by the fellowship Hall after Worship Service Sunday, **Jan. 15**, to visit the United Methodist Women's famous Chili and Potato Bar. You and your family will enjoy a delicious "loaded potato meal" with a selection of various trimmings of your choice.

SWEETHEART DINNER

(sponsored by the UMM)

February 11 - 4:00 PM

The United Methodist Men are having their annual Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 11 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of fellowship in a relaxing atmosphere with beautiful decorations and the pleasure of being served by the men. A free-will offering is acceptable. Contact Gary Hall at (301) 290-0487 for additional information.

January Birthdays

Natalie Allard	2
Isy Fischer	3
Kailey Musterer	3
Dolly Robey	4
Margaret Morris	4
Robert Dale Merkle	5
Dot Wisniewski	9
Ronald Black	10
John Blom	12
Lisa Brown	13
Richard Anderson	13
James Thompson	15
Emilia Milheim	15
Marlene Phillips	16
Trevor Drummond	18
Joy Drummond	20
Katelyn Morgan	24
Kristin Arends	27
Clayton Andrew Fields	28
Philip Johnston	28
Jonathan Boettcher	28
Shirley Page	28



Calvary United Methodist Church
3235 Leonardtown Rd.
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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

301-645-5247

Deadline for input in next issue: 2/3/12

"We see a diverse, multi-generational congregation, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in the community and the world."