

JOHN CALVIN NEWS

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PASTOR NOTES

Wednesday, March 1 is the beginning of Lent. I wrote to you an article about Lent last month. However, it seemed appropriate for me to make a further explanation of this time of reflection. I wanted to give you further notes on what Lent is and isn't. **What Lent is all about:**

- remembering Christ's passion.
- growing in Christian virtue through making sacrifices for Christ.
- living in solidarity with the poor and marginalized members of society.

In the early Catholic Church, people were only baptized once a year, during the Easter Vigil Mass, and adults who wanted to become Christians had to undergo intense periods of oral instruction. In Baptism, our sins are washed away and we become Christians--members of God's church. We are buried with our sins, and rise to new life. In this way, the sacrament of Baptism draws us deep into the death and resurrection of Christ and it is a basic tie to the identity of a Christian. Lent was the most intensive period of preparation for baptism, and catechumens underwent many tests of faith. Prospects were encouraged to fast, pray, and give alms for the poor as a way of helping them learn what it means to be a Christian by practicing Christian virtue. But Lent wasn't just for the students. The rest of the Christian faithful began observing Lent in solidarity with the students as a way of renewing their own Baptismal promises--rejecting sin and embracing the teachings of Christ. A lot of people have stereotypes about Lent. Many don't even realize that it is more than just "giving up something," and they stereotype it as an "empty religious practice" with no relevance for today's Christian. But this isn't true. Lent is not an empty religious practice--it is an entire way of life focused on the mystery of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. Christ is the center of Lent. Whatever we "give up" for Lent, we give up for Christ. Whatever good we do during Lent, it is all for Christ. And whatever prayer we do should be focused on Christ. Whenever we do things for God, He blesses us with a deeper appreciation of who He is and how much He loves us.

What are you going to do for Lent? Well, use the 3 basic tenants of Lent as a guide. It's all about **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. If you pray 10 minutes a day, pray 20 minutes. If you pray 2 hours a day, pray 3. Now is the time to "upgrade" your prayer life, even if it means adding an extra 5 minutes. There are many different forms of fasting, but always remember that prayer and fasting go together. It is VERY difficult to fast or abstain from something, without being renewed daily through prayer. If you've never fasted before, then start with something small, like giving up one meal per week. Or, you could abstain from different types of food. Some people give up meat, some people give up chocolate...it all depends on who you are. If you have an eating disorder, or are ill, elderly, or underweight, maybe fasting from food isn't right for you. There are many ways to fast without giving up food. You could fast from going to the movies, watching television, or sleeping in on the weekends. It's all up to you.

Because Jesus gave us everything He had, including His own life, we are encouraged in Lent to give to others in need. This could involve donating more to charities, but if that isn't a viable option for you, there are plenty of creative ways to give alms without giving money. You can also give away your time. Try volunteering at a soup kitchen, or the charitable organization of your choice. You could also donate your clothes or extra food you have lying around the house. Or, if you're crafty, try knitting scarves, hats, and mittens for children in need. Whatever you decide to do for Lent, stick with it. And remember... Lent is 40 days of sacrifice, but Easter is 50 days of partying!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Paul

(Notes are from the Confessionator on the internet.)



SESSION NEWS-FEBRUARY 20, 2006

Session received Finance Committee's final report of 2005 Revenue and Expenses. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$10,274.73 in addition to unspent pastor compensation that was set aside for pastor search expenses. Session then approved Finance Committee's recommendations to add \$1,730.06 to our Major Repairs fund (bringing that total to \$83,000) and the balance to Sessional Funds. Recommendations regarding several restricted fund accounts were received as information to be acted on later. Slightly more than 30% of all contributions were already distributed to missions during 2005; therefore no excess revenue was allocated to missions.

Pastor Paul will convene a Confirmation Class beginning on Sunday, March 5. The class is open to persons in the sixth grade and up.

Commissioner Steve McElveen reported on the February 11 presbytery meeting where Pastor Paul was examined and received into New Harmony Presbytery.

Seven of the nine stained glass windows being constructed for the sanctuary have been paid for as designated memorials by individuals and individual families. Other gifts and memorials received and designated for the windows will fund 70% of one of the remaining two windows. An appropriate dedication service will be held after all are installed.

Other committee reports were approved including: Worship and Music—Joint services with New Harvest on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and possible international theme for World Wide Communion Sunday (October 1); Caring and Fellowship—AutumnFest tentative dates, October 21 or 28; Presbyterian Women—Church will be open from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, March 3 so that worshipers may participate in World Day of Prayer; Missions—Will sell barbeque tickets in support of Lighthouse Ministries March 15 Fundraiser; Christian Education—Youth Group will sell tickets for a spaghetti supper on April 1 to raise funds for a summer mission trip.

Answers to Bible Brain Teaser

I once made a re **(mark)** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lu **(lu, ke)** pt people loo **(king s)**o hard for f **(acts)**, and for others it was a **(revelation)**. Some were in a **(jam, es)** pecially since the names of the books are not capitalized, but the t **(ruth)** finally struck home to **(numbers)** of readers. To others, it was a real **(job)**. We want it to be **(a mos)** t fascinating few moments for you. Y **(es, ther)** e will be some really easy ones to spot. others may require **(judges)** to help them. I will quickly admi **(t it us)** ually takes **(a minister)** **(reference to Ecclesiastes)** to find one of the 17, and there will be loud **(lamentations)** when it is found. A little lady says s **(he brews)** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can com **(pete. R)** elax now, for there really are the names of 17 books of the Bible in these sentences. (One preacher found 16 books in 20 minutes. It took him three weeks to find the seventeenth one.) ** preacher could also be a reference to Ecclesiastes**

Puzzle Submitted by Scott Quinn

LENTEN STUDY GROUP

A five week study will begin on Sunday, March 5th at 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m.. Classes will end on Sunday and Wednesday, April 2nd and 5th. Everyone is invited to come. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office . Because of the response to the class, extra books will need to be ordered for those signing up.

This class is during the season of Lent and the intention of the study is to “make us more aware of the strong influence which our faith in the resurrection has on nearly every aspect of our lives.” Each week we will relate pertinent scripture references to our topic.

The book will raise such questions as: “What difference does it make whether Jesus rose from the dead?”, “Can we build our faith on anything less than Jesus who overcame death through a real, physical resurrection?”, and “What does my faith in a risen Lord mean for my life?”. The goal for the class, according to the author, is “to build each other up in the faith of Easter, while exploring a fascinating bit of fiction by a fellow Christian author, Dr. Paul Maier.”

The same lesson will be taught on Sunday and Wednesday of each week for five weeks. This allows as many as possible to attend one afternoon or night. Child care will be provided for those with younger children.

The assignment for the first class is to read the first six chapters . We look forward to sharing this time with you.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Paul



Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring \$277.00 dollars was raised for the Manna House of Florence.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Olan Mills provided pictorial directories for each family who had their picture made for the directory. If you have not received yours, you may go by the church office or check with Jean Beckman, moderator of Caring and Fellowship Committee on Sunday mornings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hopefully everyone realizes that we have some members who can not attend services because of limitations which are greater than ours. These individuals are called ESPs (Extra Special People).

Caring and Fellowship Committee and your pastor are in the process of resuming the **tape ministry** for the ESPs who would like to have tapes of the worship service on a weekly basis. We need volunteers to help with the tape delivery. Hopefully, many of you will volunteer. All we will need is for you to go by the church on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings to pick up a tape and deliver it to one of our ESPs.

Please call the church office (662-8571) and tell Linda that you would like to be a part of the tape ministry so that we will be able to deliver tapes as soon as possible.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 3, 2006

John Calvin Church will be open from **4-8 pm** on Friday March 3, 2006 for **World Day of Prayer**. There is a prayer tree in the Narthex with prayer concerns that everyone can take and use during this prayer time as well as your own concerns. What a wonderful way for Christians to come together and observe a common day of prayer each year.

SAME PROGRAM, NEW NAME

The John Calvin Prayer Buddy program has changed its name to *Church Buddies* to better reflect the purpose of the program, which is to offer the opportunity for fellowship among the adults and children of the congregation.

A number of adults have come on board as Church Buddies to accommodate the numerous new babies who have arrived in the past year. Adult Church Buddies, your job is to look for and speak to your Child Church Buddy each week and make them feel welcome at church. If the child is too young to understand, speak to the parent.

Our next event for Church Buddies to attend together will be an Easter Intergenerational Event during the Sunday School hour.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, April 1st** for a taste of Italy and homemade desserts. The John Calvin Youth Group will have a spaghetti dinner fund raiser and the proceeds will go toward their youth mission trip this summer. On March 19th and 26th, we will have tickets on the porch after church for those who are interested. You may also see a youth group member for tickets. You will be able to dine in or take out. Thank you for supporting the Youth Group of John Calvin.



Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendars- Vacation Bible School will be Sunday, June 11- Wednesday, June 14 in the evenings.

Youth Group Schedule for March

Sunday March 5th – Meet at Church from 4:30-6:00

Saturday March 11th - Judgment House (Your Final Destination)

First Baptist Florence

Meet at John Calvin at 6:00

We will go to Judgment House and then out to eat. Bring money for your meal.

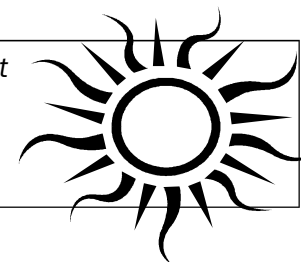
Sunday March 19th – Meet at Church from 4:30-6:00

Sunday March 26th – Mission Impossible – Meet at church at 4:30

Pick up from Houser House at 7:00

“Love is the only thing that can be divided without being diminished.”

Author Unknown



Dear John Calvin Family,

Thank you so much for your love and concern during my hospital stay and recuperation from hip replacement. Your prayers, visits, cards, telephone calls, food, and flowers were and are all appreciated. This has been a very hard time for me as I do not like to be “housebound”. I would much prefer to be out and about. My next doctor’s appointment is February 22nd, and hopefully I will be back in church and with all of you soon. You are a wonderful church family and I really do appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you again for everything and for always being there when someone needs you!

Love,

Alice Baker

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Over the years there has been a great deal of misunderstanding of the Nominating Committee process within the church. We need to address this issue so that, hopefully, we can come to an understanding of how the Presbyterian process of nominations works.

Let's begin with the committee itself. The Nominating Committee is elected by the congregation annually. The term of service is for one year. This is really one of the more important acts performed in the church. This is a huge responsibility, one that we should not take lightly. We do not have time or space to go into a lengthy prosaic on all this entails, but most importantly we should recognize that the Lord's hand must be in this selection process. We must be guided by the Holy Spirit. So let us lay out the process as briefly and as clearly as possible.

"Nominations shall be made by a representative nominating committee of active members of the church, which shall itself include both women and men, giving fair representation to persons of all age groups and of all racial ethnic members and persons with disabilities who are members of that congregation.

At least two members of this committee shall be elders designated by the session, one of whom shall be currently on the session and serve as moderator of the committee. Other members of the committee, in sufficient number to constitute a majority thereof (exclusive of the pastor), shall be chosen by the congregation or by such organizations within the church as the congregation may designate, none of whom may be in active service on the session. The pastor shall be a member of this committee, serving ex officio and without vote. The nominating committee shall be chosen annually and no member of the committee shall serve more than three years consecutively." (G-14.0201b)

"The nominating committee shall be elected by the congregation at its annual meeting stating the purpose thereof by the session."

Being nominated to serve on this committee (or any other committee) does not automatically mean that an individual is now an elder or deacon. "... In every case, procedures must allow for nominations from the floor by any member present. When the number of nominees equals the number of elders and deacons to be elected, the congregation may by voice vote or show of hands. When the number of nominees is greater than the number of elders and deacons to be elected, the congregation shall vote by secret ballot. A majority of all the voters present and voting shall be required to elect."

This same procedure shall be used with the selection (nomination) of proposed persons for consideration for election to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

This is why it is very important for all of us to realize that being nominated to one office or another does not mean that one is now serving as an elder, or deacon, or the church nominating committee, or a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

We think that in each case as individuals are contacted as to their willingness to serve as an elder, or deacon, etc. these words should be used when contacting individuals: "Do you have a willingness to serve as _____ if elected by the congregation?"

We prayerfully hope that this explanation has been helpful to you. We want this to be a smooth process of one part of the life of our congregation. Please call Cherry Gerrald or Pastor Paul should you have any questions.

In Christ's name,

The Church Nominating Committee and Pastor Paul



CHILDREN'S WORKERS FOR MARCH and APRIL



If you are unable to meet your commitment, please contact the next person on the list. Parents, label your baby items. Thanks for your help.

INFANTS		2 and 3 Year Olds		Children's Church	
March 5	Liz Gatchell	March 5	Pam Bishop	March 5	Carol Broyhill/Lisa Ard
March 12	Bernice Rasey	March 12	Mary Howell	March 12	Phyllis Thomas
March 19	Dot Collins	March 19	Diane Smith	March 19	Laurie and Kent Carpenter
March 26	Marilyn Flick	March 26	Henry Revell	March 26	Jane and Tenny Moss
April 2	Kay Garren	April 2	Claire McNeill	April 2	Pam and Bob Barnett
April 9	Debbie Filyaw	April 9	Betsey Johnson	April 9	Rebecca and Bill Barnett
April 16	Mike Robb	April 16	Kelly Hewitt	April 16	Rhonda/Tim Dickerson
April 23	Leona Tomlinson	April 23	Jane Thrower	April 23	Karen Pattillo/Nola Marshall
April 30	Judy Feimster	April 30	Tom Hawkins	April 30	Celeste/Michael McCutcheon

MEMORIALS

Eva Mae Nalley by Easley Chapter Order of Eastern Star No. 200
 Sarah Corn
 Pat and John Wayne Holcombe
 Susan and Jerry Burley

Stephen McCormick
 Douglas McCormick's father by Presbyterian Women

Josephine Parker
 JoAnn Reaves' mother by Joyce Hyman
 Thelma and Harlan Hawkins

Honorariums

In honor of *Peggy Andrews* by Mr. and Mrs. Carey Hubbard

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 5 Shirley and Mike Thow
 March 7 Martha and Arlis Welch
 March 22 Jane and Lenair Thrower
 March 23 Suk and Ben Sasser
 March 24 Jean and John Cain
 March 29 Dixie and Rich Schaner



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 2 Jay Humphreys
 Joyce Hyman

March 3 Virginia Davidson

March 5 Bret Greer

March 7 Linda Mallick

March 8 Mike Feimster
 Erskine Moore

March 9 Anna Barnett

March 10 Kimberly Dickerson

March 14 Danny McElveen
 Alex Nexsen

March 16 Matthew Broughton

March 17 William Barnett

March 23 Dot Collins
 Vicky Turner

March 24 Meila Evans

March 25 Mary Howell

March 26 Bill Holmes
 Ramona Smith

March 27 Cecil Rasey

March 28 Rhonda Dickerson
 Kay Hanson

March 29 Al Feimster
 Julia Krebs

March 30 Bryson Carter
 Cile Carter
 Shirley Thow
 Leona Tomlinson

March 31 Kathy Johnson



Thoughts on Stewardship

Each month we will begin sharing some thoughts on Stewardship. These notes will be from different sources. Think about these things.

“It is important to move beyond seeing the transfiguration of Jesus as a marvelous historical event. If we watch in faith, there will be moments in our own lives when our lives experience transfiguration as we receive a vivid gift of the presence of God with us. In these moments, suddenly everything looks different. The world seems a different place, our problems and struggles can be viewed in a new light and the future shines with new possibilities. The Christ who seemed distant is brought near. The God who seemed gone from us or angry with us is close to us in healing and grace. Sometimes these experiences come through the witness of a friend or stranger and sometimes they simply happen in the center of emptiness, confusion, or pain.

Jesus may indeed speak to us in ways that are intimate and direct and that makes us feel recognized. We will marvel at that, like Nathanael under the fig tree. However, Jesus always points us to the speaking of God that is much larger and grander. If we stay in wonder holding on to the beauty of a God who cares for us individually, we may well miss this other speaking of God. We may miss the God who cries out for those who wait and wait for justice while we are focused on our own intimate moments. We may miss out on the God who sends to us messages of hope about forms of inclusive and compassionate community that have rarely seen.” (William Willimon, 2006, *Worship Helps*.)

<p>March 1- Ash Wednesday Worship</p> <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</p>	<p>March 12- Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>Mark 8:18-22</p>
<p>March 5- First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>Mark 1:9-15</p>	<p>March 19- Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>John 2:13-22</p>

March 26- Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture Reading

John 3:14-21