



Calvin Presbyterian Church

where faith, compassion, and authenticity meet



THE STANDISH INKWELL

Calvin's News & Notes

May 2009

We are now in the final push for our *Further in Faith* capital campaign. Contrary to what you may think, I have a really hard time with these campaigns. Some pastors love building programs and campaigns. I don't. It's not that I don't believe they're important. They are vitally important. Just like homes, schools, towns, organizations, economies, and nations, growth is important, and creating the conditions for growth is essential in a church. What makes campaigns hard for me is that they force me to be part of doing something that makes me really uncomfortable: *asking people for money*. I think that televangelists and politicians must love asking for money because they do it so well. Me... I don't like asking people to give.

At the same time, I also recognize that campaigns like ours are crucially important. They are important on several levels.

The first level is the most obvious one, but not necessarily the most important. Capital campaigns raise capital that allows us to build. Unfortunately, some people are tempted to think that we build just to build, or we build because someone with a big ego wants a monument to her- or himself. If they think this they are missing the point. Our building was never meant to be a monument. It was an act of building ministry. It was to reach out to families and singles, children and adults, the young and the old, the wounded and the healed, the immature and the mature. A church, if it really is to be a place of ministry and mission, must have space for ministry and mission. Our new building has done that in abundance.

A second level is a more important one. Capital campaigns give us the opportunity to put our money where our mouths are. It's easy to say we have faith, or to say we are spiritual, but faith and spirituality have to be put into action if they are to be real. Giving money makes faith and spirituality real. It puts flesh and bones on spirit. As Jesus said, where our hearts are, there our treasures are, too.

(Continued on page 2)

Did You Know?

"A Curtain Torn in Two" by Brendon Wahlberg

At the moment of Jesus' death on a cross, a strange and miraculous event occurs. A large curtain in the Jerusalem Temple is suddenly torn down the middle. This event is mentioned in all three of the synoptic gospels. "Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of

the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom." (Mark 15:37-38) "Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom." (Matthew 27:50-51) "It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land* until

three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed,* and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last." (Luke 23:44-46)

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Creating
the
conditions
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is essential
in a church

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THE STANDISH INKWELL

If our treasures are only in earthly things, then our hearts remain earthly. But if our treasures are also put into spiritual things, then our hearts become spiritual. Capital Campaigns give us the opportunity to put part of our treasure in God's hands, and so they allow our spirits to act.

A third level is the most important. Capital campaigns connect us with each other and God in service. We are called to love. We are called to serve. Campaigns bind us in service to Christ. They are opportunities to make a difference *together*. Christian faith is a communal faith. It teaches that real spirituality isn't an individual spirituality, but a shared spirituality in which we live in the tension between our personal and shared relationships with God. Capital campaigns bring us together to serve God as one. They bind us together in one body as we work to make the body of Christ, the church, healthier.

So... Why Now? Why Not Wait? Why do we have to do this campaign so close to our last campaign? Why not wait until the economy is better? These are good questions.

The answer to all of them is fairly simple: we could wait and pay off the construction loan over 22 years, but at what cost? By waiting, would we be building up ministry for God? Would we be penny-wise and pound-foolish?

Our decision to do a campaign now was a decision rooted in prayer and faith. When the session decided, in spring of 2008, to do a follow-up, *Further in Faith*, campaign, it was thinking long-term, not short-term. It was thinking about service, not convenience. It was thinking about what builds up community in Christ. The session realized that we have 22 years to pay off our mortgage, but 22 years is a long time in the life of a church. It's not like paying off a home mortgage where, if life situations change, you can just sell the house and move on. This is our church today, and a church for future generations. The session recognized that while we could possibly absorb into our general budget the approximately \$80,000 per year mortgage payments for 22 years, what would happen if some sort of catastrophe hit? What if the church went through a difficult time? What would we have to cut in our budget to pay off our mortgage? Would we have to cut programs? Staff? Pastors? We are going through a wonderful time in the life of Calvin Church, but will it always continue? Taking care of the debt now means taking care of the future ministry and mission of Calvin Church. It is an act of seeking how best to serve God in the present and the future.

When the session peered into the future, it realized that if we eliminated or drastically reduced our debt, we would allow the ministry of Calvin Church to continue growing in response to God's calling *no matter what*. Responding to God's call is what Calvin Presbyterian Church is all about. We sensed the call to expand and renovate our building. We sensed the call to take on debt. We've now sensed a call to do what we can now to eliminate debt so that we can strengthen the church for the future.

Please be diligent in joining us in prayer. I am an avid believer in prayer because I know it works. When we honestly seek God's guidance in prayer, God speaks. I know that there are no coincidences; only providences. There are no mistakes, only grace. God is calling us to share in providence and grace. I'm asking you to go to God in prayer with a simple question: "God, what are you calling me to give?" I believe that if we are prayerful in all ways, God will bless us always, and especially through this campaign.

Together we serve God in ways that we could never do alone.

With God's Blessings,

The Rev. Dr. N. Graham Standish

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Campaign Information Meeting

May 2009

On Sunday morning, May 10, we will be hosting capital campaign information meetings in the church conference room. If you were not able to join us in the fall, or if you are new to the congregation, this is an opportunity for you to learn more about the need for the campaign to eliminate our debt. We will start at 10 a.m., and plan to finish by 11 a.m. if you are planning to attend, please contact Kim Gignac at krigig@zbzoom.net

Adult Education for Spring

The Four Gospels, led by The Rev. Jim Campbell

Continuing May 3, 10, 17, & 24

What do you know about the four gospels? Most people think they say the exact same thing in four different ways, but they don't. Each one presents Jesus in a different light. Join us as we explore the differences in the gospels.

Malone University Chorale in concert at Calvin May 11

Calvin Church is pleased to host a concert featuring the Malone University Chorale on **Monday, May 11, at 7:30 PM**. Also appearing will be the Seneca High School Madrigal Singers. The 65-member Malone University Chorale, from Canton, Ohio, under the direction of Dr. David Donelson, is known throughout the U.S. for its high level of musical excellence. Their program includes a cappella classics as well as hymn arrangements and spirituals. The Seneca High School Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Mr. Aaron Magill, are comprised of the most select auditioned singers in the district.

a *cappella* adv.
Music. Without
instrumental
accompaniment.
[Italian : a , in
the manner of +
cappella , chapel.



Host families needed

We are looking for **host families** to provide housing for the members of the Malone University Chorale **Monday night, May 11**. Hosts would meet their guests immediately after the concert and return the students to the church on Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM for breakfast. They will board their bus at 8:00AM for their next venue. If you can provide housing for 2 (or more) students, please contact Toni Schlemmer at toni@calvinchurchzelie.org or 724-452-7560 ext 11.

Calvin's News & Notes

Food Cupboard News



The Food Cupboard will be needing our help next month (June) to serve as volunteers on Tues. the 9th and 16th. We will be needing volunteers in the AM on each of those dates and in the evening on the 16th. Please mark these dates on your calendar if you are able to serve. I will have more specifics for you in June.

Food Dedication - **May 10** (the second Sunday of each month)

Needs: Baked Beans, Baking mixes (muffins & cookies), Cereal

Boxed potatoes (mashed & scalloped), Canned vegetables, Canned fruit

Applesauce, Spaghetti Sauce, Soup, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese

Egg Noodles, Pasta, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Helper meals, Ensure

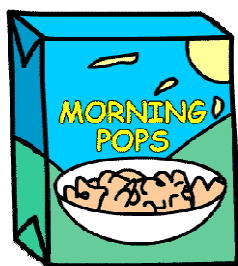
Boxes, Xerox paper size, are also needed. These are best for filling and carrying. Baby food and formula are not needed, as these are supplied by the WIC (Women Infants & Children) program. Diapers and wipes, however, are needed.

***Please supply only the items on this list. Most other items are hard to dispose of.**

Your monetary contributions are most welcome.

Please make checks payable to **Calvin Church** and mark "Food Cupboard."

Arby Shenesky, 724-452-9755



Youth Formation and Education

Youth Formation & Education Seeks Teachers for the 2009-2010 School Year: The YF&E Committee is currently looking for volunteers to fill vacancies in our Sunday School teaching teams. We need teachers for the following classes: 3-year-olds, Pre-Kindergarten/ Kindergarten, and Grades 1 & 2. No experience is necessary, just a caring heart and a willingness to share God's word with the children. Classes are taught by teaching teams who rotate on a monthly schedule. Teaching materials are provided. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Shaney Mitchell (724-779-6479) or Connie Frierson. *Youth in grades 10-12 are encouraged to join a team and help out in the classrooms.* We are also considering the addition of an informal program for our members in grades 10-12. If you are an adult who enjoys working with youth, please let us know if you would be willing to help.



Green Team Tidbits

Dear Abby recently published how long it takes items in landfills to decompose

- Paper 2-5 months
- Orange peels 6 months
- Milk cartons 8 years
- Filter-tip cigarettes 10 to 12 years
- Plastic bags 10 to 20 years
- Leather shoes 24 to 40 years
- Plastic containers 50 to 80 years
- Disposable diapers 75 years
- Tin cans 100 years
- Aluminum cans 200 to 500 years
- Styrofoam Never

Please recycle.

Contributed by Tom Reiber



Appreciating Our Children

Last month the Mission Committee focused on the importance of love and safety in the lives of children. Now let us look at one of the ways we as parents and as members of the congregation may better understand our children and help them grow well. In the March 30, 2009 edition of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Amanda Robbins, who is a preacher's daughter, writes about her close connection with her father who was a pastor,

"I do have to admit that I was the biggest critic of his sermons. And I probably still am. But my pastor was more than just a pastor, he was my dad. I could ask him any and every question I had about the sermon and about religion. No question was off limits."

Is this not a good guide for responding to questions about all subjects that come out of the curious minds of our children? Listening and answering, as well as asking and listening, are among the wonderful gifts we can give. Not to find out what someone has done, but to explore what's going on in their thinking.

I once had a conversation with a woman who said she was an atheist. One reason she gave was that when she was five she had heard that God made everything. So, she asked her mother "but, who made God?" In response her mother cuffed her on her head and said, "Good Christian girls don't ask questions like that!" What an opportunity was missed for a conversation about God. Any question from a child arises out of the gift of curiosity. Curiosity leads to Learning.

Our children are bright and shining jewels in Calvin Church. They are an integral part of our congregation along with parents, grandparents and all others. As they are received into the congregation at their baptisms, the congregation pledges to assist their parents as the children grow in their faith and life. One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is to encourage them to grow at the rate for which they are ready: physically, mentally and spirituality.

Contributed by Dick Baker, Mission Committee

Morning Circle Schedule

MORNING CIRCLE NEWS - Last time it was bring a BROOCH now it's pictures. Check your photo albums for pictures of our Circle Members and bring to Circle what you have. Meet at **10 AM on Thursday May 14th** with those pictures. Rosemary will lead us in our discussion of Chapter 2. More about Missions and Least Coin and don't forget those pictures.

Contributed by Flo Towers



Calvin Youth Groups

Calvin Youth Group (CYG), grades 9-12 Sunday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Calvin Youth Group 2 (CYG2), grades 7-8 Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Calvin Youth Group 3 (CYG3), grades 5-6 Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Ready for God (RFG), grades 3-4 Sunday evenings, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

All Youth Groups—always check the Sunday bulletins for any changes

For further information contact Bruce Smith, Youth Director, at the church at 724-452-7560 (ext 14) or brucesmith@zoominternet.net

"A Curtain Torn in Two" (continued)

What was this torn curtain, and why was its tearing such a significant event? The entrance to the innermost room of the Temple, the Holy of Holies, which once contained the Ark of the Covenant, was covered by a very large and thick curtain. This covering is described in Exodus. "You shall make a curtain of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. You shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, which have hooks of gold and rest on four bases of silver. You shall hang the curtain under the clasps, and bring the Ark of the Covenant inside, within the curtain; and the curtain shall separate for you the holy place from the most holy. You shall put the mercy-seat on the ark of the covenant in the most holy place." (Exodus 26:31-34)

Only the High Priest was allowed to enter beyond the curtain, and then only once a year on the Day of Atonement. Beyond the curtain was the actual presence of God, and the High Priest had to take various precautions to avoid seeing God and dying as a result. The High Priest came with blood to offer for the forgiveness of the sins of the entire people, as described in Leviticus. "Tell your brother Aaron not to come just at any time into the sanctuary inside the curtain before the mercy-seat that is upon the ark, or he will

die; for I appear in the cloud upon the mercy-seat." [...] He shall slaughter the goat of the sin-offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the curtain, and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it upon the mercy-seat, and before the mercy-seat. Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary, because of the uncleanness of the people of Israel, and because of their transgressions, all their sins..." (Leviticus 16:2-16)

The gospel writers recorded the tearing of the curtain as a literal and symbolic event happening at the moment of Jesus' death. Jesus died, and as a direct result, the curtain tore. There are several meanings to be understood from this.

Christians understand Jesus' death as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of all sin, an event analogous to the sacrifice of blood offered by the High Priest once a year. Unlike the High Priest's sacrifice, which had to be repeated every year, Jesus' sacrifice was once and for all. After Jesus, the yearly sacrifice was no longer needed. The curtain tore because the sacrificial system had come to an end.

The curtain was a partition separating Man from God, and access to God through the curtain was extremely limited. But Jesus' death opened a way for people to come directly to God, to know God and

be forgiven, without a Priestly intermediary. Jesus' death atoned for sin, making us right before God, allowing us to come before God and not die. The curtain tore because the barrier between God and man was removed. Because the huge curtain was torn from top to bottom, the symbolic implication is that God did the tearing.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews discussed the meaning of the torn curtain at length, giving us a full understanding of what it means for us. "Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:19-25) Entering beyond the torn curtain is just the beginning. This privilege must bring changes in our lives befitting our new status.

"Thus it was necessary

for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:23-28) The torn curtain is not the end of the story, either. We are promised that our savior's work is not finished.

"We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 6:19-20)

<u>Places in the New Testament</u>		
D	N	Z
U	Q	M
L	J	V
N	X	M
B	I	T
N	Z	E
Y	S	G
S	R	Z
I	J	H
B	X	L
I	K	A
W	V	T
P	I	O
A	B	Y
O	U	K
X	Z	J
H	C	N
M	W	B
L	S	A
D	P	T
F	B	E
P	H	E
S	U	S
J	Q	E
M	O	R
X	C	H
K	M	I
I	D	Y
Q	F	S
V	R	L
P	O	M
A	M	L
E	I	I
Y	G	Y
X	F	O
Q	Z	E
S	V	O
N	B	E
U	E	D
W	A	M
M	P	P
A	H	T
A	E	Y
Y	E	J
N	U	E
A	S	S
E	H	T
R	M	H
R	H	E
A	E	T
S	A	M
A	D	A
L	G	P
G	L	S
B	Z	T
S	B	V
Z	M	S
Z	A	R
H	L	A
L	A	O
C	E	T
L	C	M
D	G	I
I	P	E
M	P	I
B	O	J
C	O	R
I	N	T
H	W	J
M	I	L
E	T	U
S	A	P
P	O	J

Antioch Athens Bethlehem Capernaum Colossae Corinth	Damascus Ephesus Galatia Joppa Lystra Miletus	Nazareth Pergamum Philippi Rome Sardis Thessalonica Troas
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Newsletter Editor

“Did You Know” Announcement

All of the previous “Did You Know?” articles are now hosted on the Calvin website in the Discipleship section. Or go directly to:

<http://www.calvinchurchzelie.org/didyouknow.htm>

Announcements and News

To put announcements in the Sunday Bulletin, please call the office no later than the Thursday of the week you want the announcement to appear.

All Newsletter material must be submitted by the 20th of each month to be included in the next month’s edition. Please send newsletter items to Nancy Mead at nancy@mead.cc. Thanks in advance!

Calvin Presbyterian Church

is a spiritual family sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and discerning God’s purpose and will through sincere commitment to worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching and mission.

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