



Calvin Presbyterian Church

Courier

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December 2014

Marc My Words

By Pastor Marc Andresen



Is it possible to take a month to unwrap a present? Come to worship during Advent and see.

To state the obvious: Christmas is known as a hyper-gift-giving time. And of course the commercial world has figured out ways to take this to ridiculous lengths: buying/giving everything from cars to pet toys.

We who know the Lord know that THE gift - the greatest gift is actually the One born, whose birth we allegedly celebrate.

With the greatest gift-giving in mind, our Advent Theme is "Unwrapping the Identity of Jesus."

Each Sunday as a part of worship, we will consider Old and New Testament passages that help us unwrap Who Jesus really is. We will hear Scripture describe different aspects of the nature and character of Jesus and, hopefully, gain insight as to how Jesus fills out all of God's plans for history.

Come and hear this gift being unwrapped.

Pastor Search Team Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee is enthusiastic and hopeful about God's plan to bring to us the right person to serve as head pastor beginning after Pastor Marc's retirement in early summer. We remain humbled by the trust you have placed in us to undertake this responsibility. We are constantly encouraged by your prayers for us and for this process.

The committee has spent the past 8 weeks focused on becoming a team, on preparing the job announcement, and developing the materials that candidates need to learn about our church. The job announcement is now available to potential candidates on the Evangelical Presbyterian Church website (<http://www.epc.org/ministries/ministerial-vocation/epc-opportunity-list/>), and we are receiving applications. We will be praying, studying, and talking in coming meetings about the criteria by which we will evaluate candidates. Please continue praying for us and for the candidates who apply – for discernment, grace and truth in all discussion and decisions.

Search Team Members: Dawn DeGarmo, Tim Eby, Mark Edwards, Judy Kraft, Callie Newton, Skip Rung, Debbie Zuidema

*** Job announcement on page 2 ***

Celebrate Christmas at Calvin

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 14

11:45 a.m.



Bring a sack lunch to eat before we go sing at Timberhill

Place, the Corvallis Manor, Samaritan Village and Irene Williamson's.

Christmas Tea

Sunday, Dec. 21

11:30 a.m.



The Deacons are hosting our 3rd annual Christmas Tea immediately

following the worship service. Come enjoy warm drinks and snacks with your Calvin family.

Christmas Meditation

Monday, Dec. 22

7-8:30 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open with quiet music playing.

This is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas through listening, praying, resting and reflecting.



Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, Dec. 24

6:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Service as we celebrate

the real Christmas story through music and drama.



Calvin Pastor Job Description

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (EPC), CORVALLIS, OR – is seeking a **full-time Senior Pastor**. Calvin is a friendly, loving, generous and involved congregation of 117 members (with facilities capacity for many more) that is seeking to increase its outreach and witness, especially to young families and in its immediate neighborhood - which is home to two schools, community outreach organizations, an assisted living facility and many immigrants.

Calvin's next senior pastor must be an experienced church leader who will encourage people to develop spiritually and live their faith; who will preach and teach compelling messages from God's Word; who will help develop effective lay leaders and who will uphold Calvin's long tradition of compassion, warm fellowship and courtesy to all.

Corvallis is situated in Oregon's Willamette Valley, 80 miles south of Portland, 50 miles east of the Pacific coast and 80 miles west of the Cascade Range crest. Corvallis is a quintessential college town, home to Oregon State University, a research-intensive institution that boasts 25,000 domestic and international students. Corvallis is a friendly, physically active, civically engaged and highly educated community. It is also a mission field that needs to hear about and draw hope from the love of God and timeless gospel of Jesus Christ as the culture moves in contrary directions.

Interested candidates must be ordained or eligible for ordination by the EPC. Candidates may direct their PIF and cover letter to Skip Rung, Pastor Search Committee Chairman: rungs@q.com or by mail to the Pastor Search Committee, 1736 NW Dixon St. Corvallis, OR 97330.

Hour of Prayer in the Calvin Sanctuary Sunday, December 7 4:30-5:30 p.m.

This is an opportunity to receive prayer for any personal needs. If time remains we will also pray for needs within our church and the Pastor Search Team. Come experience God's presence as we join together in prayer.

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

I John 5:14

Chronicles of Calvin: A Financial Update

By Marsha Hill, Treasurer

I recently finished reading through 1 and 2 Chronicles. These books look back over about 500 years of Israel's history. Like most histories, 20/20 hindsight is evident! During some years, the people "did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD" and thrived. In other periods, the LORD's commands were ignored and the people suffered.

What pleased the LORD and brought blessing to His people?

- They worshipped the LORD exclusively—no false idols
- They examined Scripture so they would correctly obey the laws and commands
- They sought the LORD's help in times of trouble—not counting their strengths
- They brought to the temple a tithe (a 10th) of the first and the best of the LORD's provision to them—in thanksgiving...and in obedience.

These offerings not only glorified the LORD but supported the priests and Levites who instructed the people about the LORD and led worship.

God is wise to our ways. As Pastor Marc noted in a recent sermon, we can be led away from the LORD by the distractions of our day-to-day lives. Like the people of the books of Chronicles, we need a place set aside for worship and people appointed and financially supported who will, week-in and week-out, instruct us in the LORD's ways.

A problem or an opportunity?

As our church begins the search for a new head pastor, what story will our financials tell to pastoral candidates? The church staff and Session have kept expenses below budgeted amounts... but overall giving to the General Fund (operating expenses) has been less than our expenses for 7 of the 10 completed months of this year.

This holiday season, many worthy

charities will ask you for donations. But, before you write that check, would you first examine if you are bringing your first and your best to support your church? No one besides the people of Calvin church give to Calvin.

1 and 2 Chronicles shows us that with obedience comes blessing. Will the Chronicles of Calvin show that each of us "did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD"?

For 2014, Session set a conservative income budget of \$293,000, a 3.98% decrease from 2013's income budget and a 4.6% decrease from 2013's actual income.

As of the end of October, \$209,995 has been given with \$83,005 needed in the last two months of 2014 to meet the \$293,000 income budget.

For 2015, the projected income budget will be similar to that of 2014, with some additions for expenses related to the pastor search.

Craig's Corner

Christmas Memories

By Pastor Craig Kulonis

Christmas time stirs up memories for all of us. Some memories may be filled with the joy of being reunited with family that we haven't seen in quite some time. Other memories may be the sadness of someone we love who has died this year. Wherever you may find yourself this coming Christmas Season, filled with joy and thankfulness, or struggling with depression, physical illness, or somewhere in between, may the truth that God has come to earth to rescue us from our sins give you hope.

I would encourage you during this busy season to slow down and reflect on your life and think about the goodness of God and how even in the dark times He has been faithful.

Recount some of the memories of Christmas through the seasons of your life. For example, one of the memories I have cherished in recent years is the annual Christmas Caroling we do at our church. Each year I am deeply touched inside of my soul as we go and sing some favorite Christmas carols to folks in our church family who are home bound, as well as to those who are living in assisted living facilities in town. To see the faces of these dear people, who are in the twilight of life, light up with joyful eyes and smiling faces is as precious as watching a toddler opening their very first Christmas present.

When I think about another Christmas it reminds me how fast the years of my life seem to fly by. Even though life

has its ups and downs, I am truly grateful to know that the meaning of Christmas will never be stolen away from my heart. God has come to me and you and has saved us from our sins! He lives inside of us –“Christ in us, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

My Christmas prayer for each of you is that the God of all creation, who loves us with an everlasting love, will speak His peace into your soul and give you strength for each day. May you experience this Christmas Season the Christ Child who gave His life for you. I also pray that you share with others the Christ Child and eternal life that He offers to anyone who calls upon His name- Jesus, Messiah! Glory to God in the highest!

Outreach Partner Update: Cru

What Has Melissa Crabtree Been Up To?

Melissa Crabtree is the Assistant Director of Human Resources for Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) in Orlando, Florida.

I recently had the privilege of helping with a Debrief coordinated by my department. Debrief is a time for our missionaries who have been serving overseas to share their stories—about what God is doing both **in** and **through** them. Some show up wounded and ready to give up. Others have served for decades and are moving toward retirement, and others are headed to their next assignment. We spend 5 days together in a relaxing setting. Interactive talks are given on topics such as transition and grief and families have time to talk about all the changes they are experiencing. We had 35 adults and 22 kids from 12 countries at this Debrief. Each one has served faithfully. Some are going back to continue, others are moving onto a new assignment and a few are retiring. Please pray for God's hand of guidance and encouragement for each one of them. Thank you for partnering with me as I serve our staff!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“This debrief brought a kind and healing touch to our spirits bruised by all the changes of the past months.”

“The talks were truly helpful and I felt cared for and supported by the staff, I am so glad we came!”

“A couple of highlights were watching our kids interact with other Missionary Kids and knowing I am not going through transition alone.”

“Since I am not American, I now have a little bit more understanding where my wife comes from. I can relate to her emotions better when she goes through tough times in the country of our assignment.”



December 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study 4 SSYO	3 12 Prayer 6:30 Pioneer Club	4	5	6 7 Women's Precepts Bible Study
7 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship 4:30 Prayer	8	9 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	10 12 Prayer 6:30 Pioneer Club	11	12	13 7 Precepts Bible Study
14 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship 12 Christmas Caroling 	15 6:30 Deacons	16 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Session	17 9 Peacemakers 12 Prayer 6:30 Pioneer Club	18	19	20 7 Precepts Bible Study
21 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship 11:30 Christmas Tea 	22  7 Christmas Meditation	23	24  6:30 Christmas Eve Pageant	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27
28 9 Prayer 10 Worship	29	30	31	1 Office Closed 	2 Office Closed	3

Successful Fall Work Day

Members of Calvin and the Korean Presbyterian Church joined together to rake leaves, pull dead plants and trees, and clean gutters. Many thanks to all who helped!



Save the date!
Annual Meeting
Sunday,
January 25

Year-end Giving

All 2014 gifts must be postmarked December 31 or be received in the church office by 12 noon on December 31. Offering envelopes are also available in the church office for those who like to use them.

Calvin Celebrates Thanksgiving

Pioneer Club's Thanksgiving celebration included a thankful chain, Bible study, worship and yummy food. Calvin celebrated our annual all church feast on November 23rd with bountiful fellowship and food. Phil Mote spoke about the importance of giving thanks, citing recent Sunday sermons from 1 John about God's vast and deep love for us.





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Craig Kulonis

Pastor of Community Life

Rachel Eby

Director of Children's Ministries


Sarah Marshall

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 /calvinpres

Office Hours

M-Th: 8:30-3; F: 8:30-12

Sundays at Calvin

8:30 Prayer in the Prayer Room

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10 a.m. Worship