



Calvin Presbyterian Church

The Courier

Volume 63, Issue 9

September 2015

A Word from Pastor Zach Thank You and More

Brothers and Sisters-

I want to present you with two things this month: an explanation and a thank you.

First, the explanation. In a few of my weekly emails, I have mentioned a desire to meet with each of you. My hope is to serve as your shepherd for many years, and as Jesus pointed out, a good shepherd knows his sheep and they know him. I cannot get to know you on Sunday mornings, much as I enjoy them. We can only grow closer in smaller contexts. So, my hope is to spend much of my time over the next few months meeting with you one or two at a time, hearing your stories and sharing some of mine, and praying for you. I want to assure you that you will in no way be burdening me or overwhelming me. It is my privilege and calling to pastor you, and that means knowing you.

So, please do contact me and set up a time to meet. You can call the church office or email me at zach@calvin-church.org. It will be my pleasure to sit with you, to learn about who you are, and to pray with you.

Second, a thank you from Vanessa and myself (written by my lovely bride).

We've been here a month and I never imagined how welcomed we would be. Thank you for making this new town feel like home so quickly. Calvin has been so welcoming and gracious to my family and I am so appreciative. When we first arrived and were living out of suitcases you all offered us so many things to make our house feel like a home, from furniture to kitchen ware and flowers. When the truck did arrive we had countless offers to help with everything from unpacking to watching our little ones. We have been blessed with cookies, breads, and fresh fruits

and veggies as well as meals inside your homes and offers for more.

You have showered us with cards through the transition, encouraging words and company since our arrival and lots of prayer. Not to mention a warm welcome celebration and a feast after Zach's ordination. You have helped make our birthdays special. You have made our children feel safe and welcomed. I really cannot thank you enough for welcoming our family into yours with such open arms. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and I'm excited to get to know you all more.

I'll add my own 'amen' to that thank you. I pray that you all are filled with the same energy and excitement as I am over Calvin's present, and our future together.

Grace and Peace,
Zach and Vanessa

Ordination & Installation of Pastor Zach

On August 16 Zach Washburn was ordained and installed. After taking the ordination vows, elders surrounded Zach and prayed. The service was followed by a reception in Olleman Hall.



Craig's Corner

A New Season is upon Us

By Pastor Craig Kulonis

Summer is coming to a close in a few weeks and fall will be upon us. For me, fall has always been a time of year where things start fresh. School begins, football season gets into full swing and the fall air says nature is preparing for winter. I have also discovered that this time of year can be a fruitful time if we will stop long enough to reflect and make decisions on how the rhythm of daily living is going to be set, not on our own terms, but by submitting to God's will.

As followers of Jesus, I want to encourage us to not let the busyness of leaving summer and entering into fall be done without spending some time seeking the Lord for what He wants us to do in the coming days. In Ephesians 5:15-18, Paul says, "*See then that you **walk carefully**, not as fools but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what***

*the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit.***"

These wise words are a wonderful reminder that we should not rush into life without seeking counsel, direction, and guidance from the Lord. The Bible has many stories where those who sought God found success, and those who did not seek counsel from God found disappointment.

There is a common thread to the 4 phrases above that are highlighted - they are all imperatives. When Paul says, **walk carefully**, it carries the idea of using precision and accuracy. The opposite of this would be to live carelessly and haphazardly. The second imperative Paul gives is to **redeem the time**, or take advantage of the opportunities God places before you. If we don't live carefully, redeeming the time, we may look back and wonder, "How did I waste my life?"

The third imperative is to **understand what the will of the Lord is**.

Understanding suggests using our minds to discover and do the will of God. As we meditate on God and His Word over time, we gain the mind of Christ and are better equipped to discover God's will. The fourth imperative is to **be filled with the Spirit**. The verb "to be filled" means to continue being filled, so it is intended to be an ongoing experience we should enjoy. To be filled also means to be "controlled by." When our lives are surrendered to God we find the most fulfillment, because we are living our lives the way God has intended.

I hope we will all spend time taking to heart Paul's words from Ephesians 5 as we enter the fall season. Why not set time aside in the next week or so and take your Bible and a notepad and spend time with God seeking Him. You may find that you are pleasantly surprised by His joy.

Latvia Mission Trip

Our Latvia mission team—Marc, Carol and Katie Andresen; Aaron and Callie Newton and Paula Hewitt—spent a week in July teaching at an English language camp in Madona. Camp days included classroom instruction along with games and worship. Paula Hewitt writes, *The kids were very receptive and seemed to enjoy our times together. Quite a few of the kids were also at last year's camp, and five*

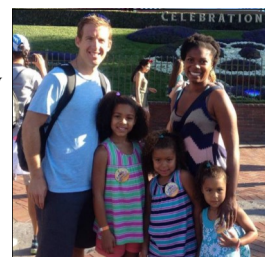
of those from last year's oldest, most experienced group came back this year as translators for our classes. We taught from the parables this year and had many opportunities to use drama to express what the parable meant.



Davies' Visit

By Judy Kraft

Trevor & Chrissy Davies, our supported missionaries in South Africa, visited us early this summer. They are living in the Seattle area during a year long sabbatical. About 25 people came to John and Judy Kraft's home to hear about their work. It is a challenging area in which to bring the hope of the Gospel, but after a few months' rest they are ready to return and take up the challenges again. They plan on returning in about 4 months. If you would like to follow them, their address is: trevor.davies@servantpartners.org or look up servantpartners.org, Johannesburg. As always, your support means a great deal to them.





Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 1-2:30 p.m.

All women are welcome to join this Bible study group that meets every week during the school year in Olleman Hall C. This fall's study is on *The Twelve Disciples* and begins on September 8. Talk to Marilyn Platt or Kim Ossen for more information.



Hope Fund

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40

Over 20 years ago, Calvin's Session created a Hope Fund to meet occasional needs of members and other requests received from the community. The

Hope Fund allows us to help with utility payments, food gift cards, clean clothes and a duffle bag for a homeless man who comes by every year and similar needs. If you would like to support this effort, just note "Hope Fund" on your gift or mark the appropriate line on the white offering envelope in the pews.

Calvin Financial Update

By Janet Magedanz, Elder/Treasurer

It's always difficult to report on church finances in the midst of the year because the expenses are not apportioned exactly 1/12th each month, although our largest expense category – staff compensation – is close. The receipt of contributions follows this same path. It's not unusual for our monthly financial reports to indicate a significant deficit with the deficit being covered in December.

The good news as of June 2015 is that both our revenue AND expenses are running less than the budget, resulting in a small positive net revenue, although the positive number was used up in

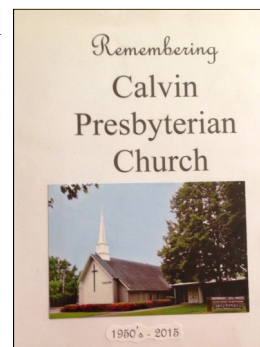
July. As of June 30 our revenue was \$123,527 and our expenses totaled \$116,503. Although this is good news, please keep in mind that the giving always drops off during the summer months. If the revenue had equaled the budget, the revenue would have been \$23,000 higher.

For many years Calvin has pledged to donate 10% of its budget to other charitable organizations. That obligation is a consistent amount each month of approximately \$1,280.

If you have any questions about the finances of the church I, or another member of Session, would be happy to respond.

Calvin Scrapbook

Have you seen our Calvin Scrapbook loving created by Lorraine Garrison? It contains pictures and stories telling Calvin's history over



the years—everything from Stone Stories to pastors to our Block Parties to the stained glass windows. If you would like a chance to look at it, stop by the office when we are open.

OPRC Fundraiser Thursday 9/17

Speaker: Shawn Carney
Suburban Christian Church

Doors open at 7 p.m.
Program 7:30-9 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations:
541-924-0160

megan@optionsprc.org
Flyers available at church

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 Prayer	2 10 Prayer	3	4	5
6 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	7 Office Closed Labor Day	8 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	9 10 Prayer	10	11	12
13 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	14	15 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	16 10 Prayer	17	18	19
20 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	21 October Courier articles due in office 6:30 Deacons	22 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Session	23 10 Prayer	24	25	26
27 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	28	29 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	30 10 Prayer	1	2	3 9:30 Women's Fall Brunch

Courier Photo Credits: Madeleine Edwards, Judy Kraft, Vikki Leavengood, Jacquie Markowski, Aaron Newton, Cathy Shreeve. Thank you for sharing your pictures of Calvin events for all to enjoy.

A New Sign



Our new sign was installed in July. Many thanks to Michelle Schultz and Audra Mote, who worked on the design, and Mel McCracken and Scott Leavengood who helped signmaker Brad Johnson install the sign.

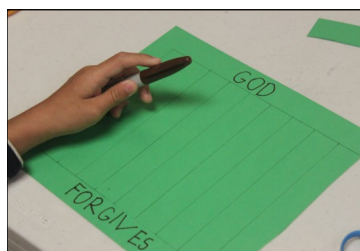
Small Group Gathering



During the summer most small groups gathered for potluck meals. In July the group pictured above had an opportunity to get to know the Washburn family. Most groups will start meeting weekly this month. If you would like to join a group, talk with Pastor Craig.

60+ Children Experience Thailand Trek VBS

VBS was a fun-filled week of music, crafts, games, learning about Thailand and experiencing Thai food such as rice topped with pineapple and grapes! Bible stories focused on how Jesus was born and died for us and loves us every day. Mindy Aithwaite coordinated a fantastic group of volunteers from Calvin and Westminster Presbyterian Church. The children donated funds to buy 30 Thai New Testaments.



Thank You!!

By Angela Edwards

Marc's retirement party may feel like it was ages ago but it's never too late to thank all of the folks who helped make it a huge success. So many of you worked very hard with me to throw a wonderful party that I believe really celebrated and served the Andresen family.

A huge thank you goes to Vikki Leavengood who organized so much of the party while I was traveling just weeks before the party. Most of the logistics, the creation of the invitation, and all that went into the production of the incredible memory book and photos was handled by Sarah Marshall, Audra Mote, Ineke Loux, Callie Newton, Debbie Miller, and Craig Kulonis.

And thank you to the rest of the team: Rachel Eby, Maggie Polizzo, Kim Oxsen, Brenda Bremer, Judy Kraft, Elva and Les Kilbourne, Michelle and Dennis Schultz, Debbie Zuidema, Marilyn Platt, Linda Keller, Scott Leavengood, Mel and Marta McCracken, Wayne and Carol Gladwin, Cathy Shreeve, Nancy Lucas, Jane Kelsey, Donna Roth, and Mark, Emily and Madeleine Edwards (apologies to anyone I may have forgotten).

Thank you to Bob and Lorraine Garrison for having the Calvin History Book completed in time for the party. What a gift to the church and the Andresen family.

It was a joy working with all of you. May God bless you!

Prayer at Calvin

We have 3 weekly prayer times at Calvin. Please consider joining us for all or part of any of these times as we pray for our worship service, our members, our community and wherever God leads. All gatherings are in the library/prayer room.
Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays, 9 a.m.
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

"The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. No man is great than his prayer life."

Leonard Ravenhill

From May 10 sermon by Marc Andresen (which can be heard on our website under Teachings)

**Calvin Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

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Sundays at Calvin

8:30 Prayer in the Prayer Room

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10 a.m. Worship