



Calvin Presbyterian Church

The Courier

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May/June 2016

Women's Retreat

Friday, May 20—Sunday, May 22

Worship, Food, Speakers, Prayer, Small Groups, Crafts, Fun & Games



The retreat will take place in East Corvallis, with an option to sleep at the venue for 2 nights. We will be discussing the way our friendships with those we know shape our friendship with Christ. On Sunday we will eat breakfast together before going to Calvin's worship service. Register at church on Sundays or in the church office. Cost is \$10 and contributing to meals.

Prayer Grandmas: Cross-Generation Prayer

This year we have 2 elementary Sunday school classes. Laura Rung has been teaching the preschool class. She shares: "As I started planning for teaching Sunday School last fall, I was taking on a class of children younger than I have been teaching recently. I wondered what enduring learning could be accomplished with children so young beyond feeling happy and loved when they come.

The James 1:27 verse came to mind: *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."* We are collecting offering in Children's Church each Sunday to help the Asante kids, many of whom are orphaned of at least one parent. I thought that praying for the widows was a reasonable project for us."



Each of the boys that attends Sunday school regularly has been paired up with 2 women in the church to pray for. Pictures are posted in the Sunday school room.



Caleb Eby missed the group picture. His dad, Tim, is part of the Men's Ministry team that works at Denise Nervik's home, so Caleb goes along and spends time with Denise on occasional Saturdays.

Calvin Community Garden at Ten Years!

By Doug Eldon, Coordinator

About the time when Calvin Church was discussing a building project that included a sanctuary (and parking) at the north end of the property, Denise Nervik proposed establishing a community garden on that parcel of land instead. About six years later, after the sanctuary idea was no longer being discussed, and the half acre plot continued on as an empty lot, Tyler Jones proposed a garden, and the idea was enthusiastically welcomed!

By June, 2006, the east half of the lot had been rototilled, water lines put in, and willing gardeners found to take plots that were roughly 12' x 35'. The next year or so the west half was also divided up into plots, and a compost pile started growing in the middle.

Tyler moved on to other involvements, a friend of his (a student from another church) managed the garden for a year, then a member of Calvin for two years before I took over in 2011. One of my first projects was to put a drain line in the west side, which typically stayed flooded until June. A couple years later we removed the compost (yard debris) pile and added 11 smaller plots, many as raised beds. The next big project (this month!) is to put in hose hangers

on posts at each pair of plots, so hoses won't be in the paths where people can trip on them.

Reasons for having a plot at Calvin Garden vary. Some just like growing vegetables for their own use or for their church community, and many live where they can't have a garden. Others grow vegetables to give to friends and neighbors and/or the Soup Kitchen.

Calvin Church pays for water, and we ask for a \$25 donation to help pay for the perimeter lawn to be mowed, for the water lines to be maintained, for the yard waste bins, and for loads of compost—which is also paid for by a generous Calvin family.

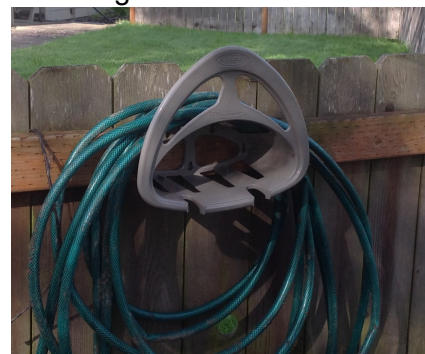
Calvin Community Garden has become a community in itself, with friendships established, gardeners helping each other, and sharing of seeds, plants, and produce, as well as advice.

Currently there are 57 or so gardeners, either individuals or families. Some are master gardeners, others are first-time gardeners, and there are many levels of experience, seriousness, motivation, and physical ability. There are students, young parents, senior citizens; gardeners from the immediate neighborhood as well as farther away;

five Hispanic and several Asian families; and families from Calvin and several other churches. For some of the gardeners, this is the closest they've come to being involved with a church.



Above: Kathy Tucker lives across the street from the garden, and her daily involvement is greatly appreciated! Below: We'll be getting about 60 of these hose hangers from a grant we obtained from a Corvallis garden club.



Sole Hope: Shoes for Children

In March several Calvin members gathered to cut out denim that will be shipped to Uganda, where it will be turned into shoes for children by local shoemakers. The children receiving the shoes will also be taught about foot hygiene and attend a jigger removal clinic. To learn more about the organization visit solehope.org.



First Aid Kits for Uganda Families

Pioneer Club kids made 30 first aid kits that the Uganda team will take and share this summer.



Missions Partner News

Learning About Options PRC

By Linda McDowell

I am so thankful I said “yes” to Judy Kraft when she asked me to go with her in April for an after hours visit to Options Pregnancy Resource Center in Corvallis! In fact, after that visit I am rejoicing that this service is offered in Corvallis and Albany with possible expansion to other neighboring communities.

As a member of the Calvin Pres. Church committee responsible for staying in close touch with the missions we support collectively, I went with Judy. I was hoping to minister to them—letting them know of our willingness to pray and continue supporting them—but I know I ended up feeling ministered to, seeing and hearing of the ways the OPRC ministry has touched lives with the gospel message of hope.

The very environment of the OPRC office space shows compassion and comfort for women seeking help because of an unplanned pregnancy. The lighting and decor in the waiting rooms is evidence that the staff and volunteers offer a listening ear, privacy, and unconditional love.

As we were guided from room to room, we heard about the experience a woman would have: pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, referral for prenatal care and resources, living arrangement referrals, and compassionate advocacy and friendship, all without cost. I was impressed by the training and preparation staff and volunteers get in order to engage effectively in those difficult conversations—bringing the hope of the gospel and providing information about a relationship with Jesus.

I was encouraged to hear how members of Calvin can support OPRC – as trained volunteers, or as much needed assistants in fundraising efforts, or simply in administrative assistance tasks, and/or in prayer. Weekly prayer request lists with specific situations that arise daily during the ministry are sent to those who want to ask for God’s continued blessing on the work and staff of OPRC and, of course, on the lives of those who choose Options.

Our own Linda Keller can answer questions as a member of the board. You can request a weekly prayer listing or contact OPRC using the following website: optionsprc.org.

Uganda Mission Trip

By Judy Kraft

Rachel Eby, Linda McDowell and Judy Kraft will be serving our sister church Streams of Life in Kampala from **June 27th to July 11th**. Our purpose is to:

- * Support and review the Asante Kids program
- * Minister to the women of Streams of Life and two other churches through Bible study
- * Plan programs to share the love of Christ with the children at Lighthouse School (supported by the church)
- * Strengthen the teachers at Lighthouse school and help them with teaching methods and ideas

* Visit the people of the church in their homes to encourage and bless them

We ask you to put these dates on your calendar and **pray for us** while we are in Uganda.

Although team members have contributed to the expense of the trip, we will still need to cover food, lodging and transportation while we are there. The goal is \$5000 and \$3300 has already been raised. **Would you consider a contribution** to support the team in this work? I really believe that God has planned it and pray that there will be lasting fruit as a result of the visit.

Asante Kids

A shining star in our Asante Kids program is Elizabeth Natakunda. She has graduated from advanced study in high school and is now studying Medicine at university. Her goal is to become a doctor. She has completed one term successfully but has been unable to raise the full tuition for the present term because her brother fractured his arm and much of the money set aside for Elizabeth was used for the brother’s medical care. Her parents managed to raise some of the funds but she is short \$233 to complete the term. If you are able, would you consider contributing to this need?

Prayerfully, The Asante Team, Judy Kraft, Kim Oxsen, Shelley Eddleman



Paula Hewitt

Serving the Latvian community in Dublin, Ireland with Bridge Builders International



The Latvian church voted to divide into two groups with different leadership. I don’t know much of the details but have learned that I will be able to continue

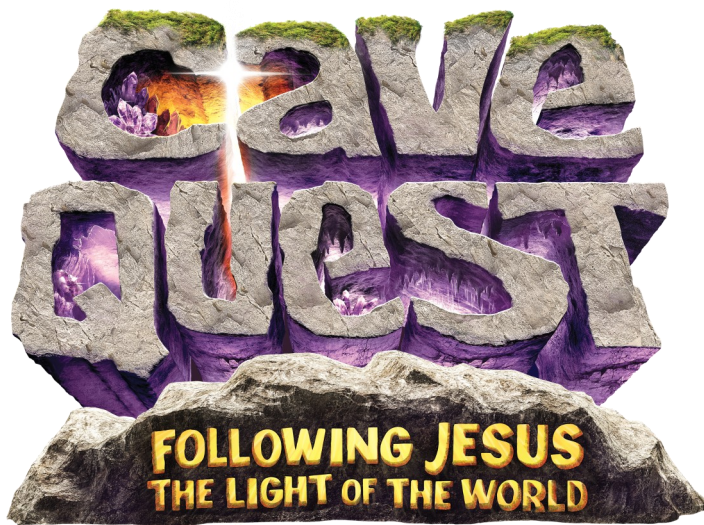
ministry with people from both groups. Our English conversation group and Bible studies continue to be very helpful.

Please pray for Godly relationships through the Latvian church. Also, please continue to pray for my ability to exercise and eat healthily.

Asante Kids Letters



The Uganda team will take letters to the Asante Kids. Put your letters in the box on the entry table.



Vacation Bible School

August 8-12, 9-noon

**Talk to Mindy Aithwaite
to sign up to help.**

Vacation Church Workshop June 20-24

By Laura Rung

The annual week of ecumenical Bible classes for developmentally disabled adults will occur again at Calvin June 20-24 from 7-8:30 p.m. There will be folk dancing, singing, crafts and a fruit snack in addition to the Biblical teaching and life application lessons.

Calvin's Amy Berdahl is one of our faithful students. Many Calvin people's lives have been enriched by volunteering to participate in this activity over the last 40 years. Please pray for us as we prepare for this busy week.

Ways to volunteer:

- Attend as a 'friend' in a classroom
- Provide fruit for a snack
- Help with set up/clean up for the BBQ on June 24

Contact Laura Rung.

**Calvin Presbyterian Church
1736 NW Dixon Street
Corvallis, OR 97330**

Return Service Requested

Church Staff

Zach Washburn

Pastor

Craig Kulonis

Pastor of Community Life

Rachel Eby

Director of Children's Ministries

Sarah Marshall

Office Manager

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Email: office@calvin-church.org

Website: www.calvin-church.org



Sundays at Calvin

8:30 Prayer in the Prayer Room

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10 a.m. Worship