



## Congregational Update

By Pastor Zach Washburn

Brothers and Sisters,  
As we near the end of summer, I write to update you about the goings on at Calvin.

Many of you heard Brian Post of the English Language Institute of China preach on July 8<sup>th</sup>. I will be working with Brian and mission leaders of other churches in our area to plan an ELIC trip sometime in the next few years. This will be a month-long trip to a country where most people do not know Jesus and have few, if any, ways of coming to know him. A group of 6-10, gathered from churches in Northwest Oregon, will teach English, build relationships with students, and proclaim the Gospel. My belief is that God has one, two, or three people from Calvin in mind to participate in this trip. Could it be you? Please be praying! More details to come as we settle on a location and timeframe.

The elders have settled our preaching plans for the rest of the calendar year. We are currently preaching a series

on the Psalms, which will last through September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will then spend three weeks on the pillars of our identity in Christ: being children, being brothers and sisters, and being neighbors. Next we'll spend six or so weeks on the book of Esther, an Old Testament story of God's people in exile. In Advent we will begin the Gospel of Matthew, with a particular focus on how the story of Jesus is rooted in and fulfills the story of Israel as a people. As usual, I'm looking forward to all of it, and pray that God's word will be a particular blessing to us in months to come.

Also related to the pulpit: Andy found giving three consecutive sermons a great help in his growth as a preacher. You may remember that a major focus of his time with us is helping him develop the whole range of pastoral skills. With that in mind, we are planning to re-arrange his preaching schedule, giving him two or three 'chunks' of sermons throughout the year, rather than waiting for me to go on vacation each summer. You will still

hear God's word through him about 15 times a year in total, but the spacing will change. Thank you for your support of him and Lauren. I so love shepherding a church that provides the kind of environment that is enabling Andy to flourish.

We are moving forward with plans to renovate the kitchen. Janet Magedanz and a group of dedicated volunteers will begin the process by visiting nearby churches with recently done kitchens so that we can learn from their experience. After that a contractor will be hired, a specific plan formed, and fundraising will begin. Our building has been getting more and more use the last few years, and we are excited for a facility that will better enable us both to fellowship and to display the hospitality of Jesus.

My prayer for us heading into the school year is that we would have eyes to see and ears to hear how the Spirit is on the move in our midst - may we know the love of Christ that surpasses knowing, and be filled with all the fullness of God.

## Groovin' in the Garden

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On July 11 and August 15, Calvin hosted *Groovin' in the Garden* evenings. These were times of food, conversation and games in which we practiced being brothers and sisters and being neighbors (about

half of those who attended are not yet a part of our church family). We shared the Gospel, prayed together, and enjoyed one another's company - a small but significant gesture of the hospitality and fellowship that mark Jesus' kingdom. Many thanks to those who contributed time, food, and other talents. I was particularly struck by several of us who

devoted the evening to practicing one-on-one hospitality: sitting with a neighbor and engaging them in conversation. This was a wonderful testimony of what it means, not merely to claim to be a welcoming church, but to live out that welcome. And special recognition is deserved by Vanessa, who went above and beyond in organizing these events and inviting so many to join us.

It occurred to me that our feast in the midst of a garden was not at all far from the vision of heaven God unveils in Revelation. It is our joyful work as followers of Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, to enact that heavenly vision on earth. May all our days be filled with such anticipation!



## Getting to Know ... Jeanie Higinbotham



Jeanie began attending Calvin when she visited her parents on weekends. Her mother Barbara passed away in November 2015 and Jeanie moved back to Corvallis to live with her father Bob, 91. She has 2 older brothers.

Jeanie grew up in Corvallis. She shares that *"most of my childhood was in the 70s, which was a great time to be in this town for children. I lived on Arthur Circle, which was a children's 'playground'. At any given time there could be 15-16 kids randomly playing."* She attended Garfield Elementary, Zion Lutheran,

and Corvallis High School. She then went on to the University of Oregon, where she earned a B.S. in Sociology and ran cross country and track.

Jeanie currently works at Head Start. She enjoys McDonald Forest, time travel movies, Portland Christian authors (e.g. Donald Miller), and googling random things.

Jeanie says that she automatically loved Calvin when she visited. *"The people are genuine and grounded in the Bible. Calvin is a timeless church that does not feel it needs to prove itself, but looks for God's direction."* She gratefully noted that even though she was living in Portland when her mother passed away and just visiting Calvin, she received about 20 cards from members.

## Summer Mission Team Reports

Plan to stay after the worship service on the dates below to hear from our missions teams. There will be pictures, testimonies, and light snacks. The reports will take place in Olleman A/B.



**Uganda Team**  
**Sunday, 8/26**  
**11:30 a.m.**



**Latvia Team**  
**Sunday, 9/16**  
**11:30 a.m.**

## Bible Studies

All groups welcome newcomers!

### **Band of Brothers, Wednesdays, 6 a.m.**

This group for men of all ages is a time to discuss how we follow Jesus and support one another in this. Light breakfast served. Contact Dick Carozza for more information. Meets in the Conference Room.

### **Precepts, Wednesdays, 4:30-6 p.m. beginning August 29**

Meets in the Conference Room. The first meeting will be an overview of the new study on the Covenants of the Bible in the Old and New Testaments. Talk to Carol Andresen for more information.

### **Women's Tuesday Bible Study, 1-2:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 11**

Join this group in Olleman C for a time of prayer, lively discussion, and yummy snacks. The fall study is *A Life of Purpose* about Nehemiah. Talk to Marilyn Platt, Kim Oxsen, or Maggie Polizzo.

## Loving Our Neighbors: Engaging in Cross-Cultural Ministry

On August 19, missionaries Matt and Andrea V visited Calvin. Matt shared a message based on the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4) during the worship service. He and Andrea then lead a discussion over lunch about engaging in cross-cultural ministry. Matt discussed Jesus crossing cultural divides in the story of the woman at the well (John 4). He said that in some ways Jesus was not a 'sensitive missionary' because he was blunt with the woman regarding her life and her sin. But Jesus valued her as a person. Matt said our response should be to simply cross the cultural divide with courage and love.

Andrea emphasized this, sharing that if we try to make friends with the purpose of sharing the gospel, it almost always fails. Rather we want to reach out in love and let our love speak. Building relationships takes a long time. We

might not see the fruit of our planted seeds, but it's not up to us, and we must be faithful. Simply being a friend can be a powerful ministry. Matt also encouraged us to pray before speaking to nonbelievers. The Spirit will provide us with the words to speak about the gospel and God's great love for us.

Follow up opportunity:

\* Opportunities to befriend International Students at OSU:  
[international.oregonstate.edu/ois/international-friendship-program](http://international.oregonstate.edu/ois/international-friendship-program)

\* Contact the church office for more information on the missions we support