



# The Beacon

## CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Volume 6, Issue 4** **April 2015**

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### *Facts about Easter*

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It is the most joyous and celebrative of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the givings of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

The best witness to the Resurrection is the early church empowered by the Holy Spirit. Flowers of all colors are appropriate during Easter. Visuals for the Day of Pentecost may include red flowers, doves, flames of fire, a ship, or a rainbow.



During the Great Three Days, from sunset Holy Thursday to sunset Easter Day, we celebrate the saving events of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. In the development of Christian worship, each event came to be remembered on a separate day. Originally these events were celebrated as a unity, in an extraordinary single worship, that began Saturday night and continued until

dawn of Easter Day. It was known as the great Pascal (Easter) Vigil. Preceded by a fast day, it was the most holy and joyful night of the entire Christian year, for it proclaimed and celebrated the whole of salvation history and Christ's saving work. It is the most appropriate time for baptisms; persons baptized symbolically die and rise with Christ (Romans 6:3-11).

***This year we are pleased to accept new members into the family of God, at Calvary, on Easter Day! Let us rejoice in new birth this Easter!***

### Sunday Worship

**8:15 a.m. Blended**

**11:00 a.m. Traditional**

**9:30 Sunday School**

### *Easter Celebration Festivities*

Join us in celebrating Easter! We kick things off with a Maundy Thursday service at 7PM on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Then, we continue with spreading the Word at the Good Friday Service at 7PM on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, is the Resurrection Egg Hunt for kids ages 2-10 starting at 10AM. Finally, last but not least is Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7AM. Mark your calendars, these are events you don't want to miss!

# Pennings by Pastor Esther



Dear Church,

We have been focusing on the United Methodist Church's campaign **Imagine No Malaria** during Lent. We are steadily making progress on our goal as a congregation to raise \$1000 toward the overall goal of \$75 million. Already deaths from malaria have been cut in half!! Someday soon we are going to be able to say that we had a part in ending the scourge of malaria in our lifetime. See what progress is being made:

An innovative approach to combating malaria in Lualaba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, has meant more than 80 percent of the households are sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets. As many as four people can sleep beneath each net.

The implementation of Project UNF07 is beneficial and of great importance in the Lualaba area, because of the net distribution and other educational activities concerning malaria, Betty Kafwimbi said. "Before the education took place," she explained, "few people would think about looking at malaria as possible cause of the illness."

Before this program, parents often waited until the last minute to bring their children to health facilities for treatment. Many children died.

"Today the public is educated through door-to-door visits, radio and television, posters and fliers, and outreach to schools, churches and mosques", she said.

"Now, with this program, many people no longer fall ill from malaria," Kafwimbi said. "But if they do become ill, they are brought here in time, which allows many of them to be treated and saved."

Just a few short years ago, statistics showed a child died every 30 seconds of malaria. Today, because of the dedicated and generous support of people through **Imagine No Malaria**, malaria's impact has been cut in half. According to the World Health Organization, this disease now claims a life every 60 seconds.

*Prayer: Gentle God, help us to treat every one of your children as if he or she is our own. Grant us patience to listen, to seek new answers and to learn from others. Help us to wrap healing arms around those who need us the most. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.*

Blessings and Peace, *Pastor Esther*

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## Question & Answer

What's so special about Holy Week?

The days between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are called Holy week and the last three days of the week are called The Great Three Days. Sunset Holy Thursday through Sunset Easter Day is the climax of Lent and the whole Christian year. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion death and resurrection. (Paschal refers to the Passover of God when the Israelites left Egypt. God struck the houses of Egyptians and left the Israelites untouched, i.e. passed over.) During these days, the church journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. They should be seen as a great unified service beginning with a service of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday and concluding with the services of Easter Day. They may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday or Good Friday until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

During the month of April, the 11:00 AM service will have communion on Maundy Thursday only. The 8:15 AM service, will have communion as usual, except on Easter Day, when there will be no communion at any service.

## ST. PATRICK'S FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Friday evening, March 20, over 60 people attended the St. Patrick's dinner, sponsored by Rev. Luis Ordonez and his multi-cultural team.

The delicious food was primarily provided by our Filipino sisters and brothers and consisted of traditional dishes, such as Pancit, Lumpia and Roast Chicken. Desserts included rice cake dishes and Apple Pie. Apple pie? There was also an ice cream bar, where Wesley Ordonez created frozen delights, to order.

con't on pg 5



## **SCHOLARSHIP: Offered by United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union**

The United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union offers four \$1000 scholarships every year. One for each of our four Conferences (Alabama-West Florida, Florida, North Georgia and South Georgia). Eligible candidates must be between the ages of 17-35 and a member of UMC FCU. Applications must be received by *April 20, 2015*. Winners will be announced at each Annual Conference.

Contact: Joan Cooper for more information.

904-777-0590      jcooperhawk@yahoo.com

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### **\*\*\*\*\* YOUTH NEWS \*\*\*\*\***

Classes are being prepared to help our youth become more knowledgeable of the formation of the church, its disciplines, member opportunities and obligations.

The sessions will be held during the Sunday School hour, starting April 12, 2015, and continuing for eight weeks. They are open to young people, ages 12 years to 20 years and will be conducted by Annette Jeffery and Fran Ronan. If you have any questions please see Annette, Pastor Esther or Fran.

Our Youth Group is open to all 'Rising' Sixth Graders through High School seniors. We would love for all youth to come and share in Christian fellowship! Our regular meetings take place on Wednesday evenings 5:30 till 7:00.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please speak with Youth Director Ben Affleck or his PA, Brad Pitt.

*Fran The Man Ronan*

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### **LOVE BUGS**

Several members of Calvary UMC, with love in their hearts, meet every third Saturday, at 10 AM, at Heartland Healthcare Center, on Wells Road. They do craft projects with residents, who are able to go to the activity room.

At Easter and Christmas, the Calvary visitors generously give the residents gifts made by our Wednesday craft group.

The next visit will be Saturday, April 18, 2015. We welcome anyone, who wishes to join us.

Contact Beth Locke for information.

### **Church Calendar**

We love having a calendar full of events to offer our members, however we do ask that you contact Sue in the office instead of writing on the calendar. It causes confusion when new things are added and old removed without her knowledge, and it also makes it very difficult to provide an updated calendar to our newsletter readers. Thank you

## ST. PATRICK'S FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER (con't)

Mario Hernaez was the MC and we were entertained with guitar and vocal renditions by Andy and Romy. We also enjoyed the Karaoke. Erika Espinosa pleased us with a lovely voice and the others who sang, provided lots of laughs.

If you and your group are interested in hosting a Friday Night Dinner, contact Sally Cook, Chair of the Finance Committee. It's a very rewarding project, in that it provides fellowship for the church family and aids Calvary financially.



## ***Methodists United in Prayer Caravan to Cuba***

The North East District is working on their June caravan. Most of the time in Cuba, will be spent building relationships at the sister churches, The trip will likely include a visit to the Cuba Annual Conference in Santa Clara. The dates are subject to change slightly, but it looks like the best bet will be June 13-20, Saturday to Saturday, arriving and departing from Tampa.

Visas must be requested from the Methodist Church in Cuba, at least 90 days in advance, so the finalizing of the list of travelers must be done soon. Once the visas have been requested, a training date and place will be announced.

The costs break down roughly as follows:

Visa - \$110 ( not refundable )

Airline - \$400-\$450

Per Diem (food, transportation, etc. while in Cuba ) - \$400

Love offering to your sister church - TBD

Extra baggage (over the free amount ) is generally charged at \$20 per bag and \$2 per pound

If you want to go, you will need to complete an application and send it to :

George Reed

MUIP Group Area Coordinator

149 Roscoe Blvd. South

Ponte Vedra, FL 32082

The applications are in an envelope on the bulletin board, outside the church office. For more information, contact Joan Cooper, Coordinator for Calvary.

### ***IS SOMEONE MISSING?***

Most of us have a tendency to sit in the same area of the church, if not the same pew. I do this, as do many others in our church family. I wonder why.

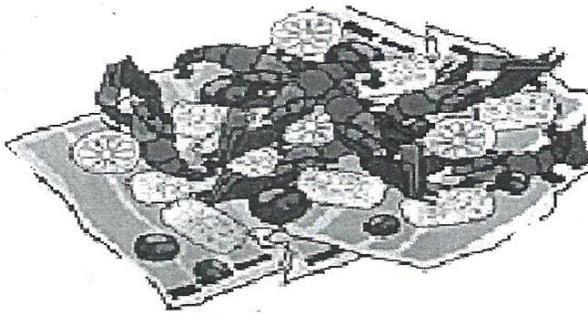
Maybe it's the "Santa Claus Theory." Kids at Christmas sometimes get afraid that Santa Claus won't be able to find them, if they go out of town for the holidays. They think maybe Santa doesn't know where Aunt Maude's house is and will show up where Timmy lives 364 days a year and finding him gone, will head back to the North Pole, without delivering his presents.

Maybe we think the same thing will happen with God. We've connected with Him before, in seat 4 in the front, middle row. If we move to another section of the sanctuary, we're afraid God will show up to our old seat and say, "Whoa, you're not Mary. Where is Mary? This is her seat. Strange, I guess she doesn't want this blessing. Goodbye."

As I said, a large number of us are like Mary and we get to know the people around us.

Occasionally, we notice that someone in our area hasn't been in church for a couple of Sundays.

If you become aware of the absence of a person, use the **Comment section on the back of a Guest Welcome card, from the back of the pew in front of you. Let us know the person's name and any other information you have, sign it and give the card to an usher. We'll do our best to contact that person.**



**Mandarin United Methodist Men**  
 Cordially Invites all of MEN of the  
 NE District of the FL Conference to the

# **5th Annual Low Country Boil**

**When:**

**Friday, May 1st, 2015**

**Location:**

**Mandarin UMC**  
*Outdoor Basketball Court*  
 11270 San Jose Blvd.  
 (1/2 mile south of I-295)  
 Jacksonville, Florida 32223

**Time:**

**Fellowship begins at 6:00**  
**Low Country Boil served at 7:00**  
**Conclude around 10:00**

*\*Casual Attire\**

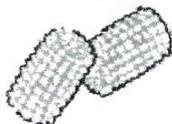
Sign-Up  
 information  
 coming soon!!

*Low Country Boiler Extraordinaire Greg Seabaugh along with his gang of rowdy Mandarin United Methodist Men will be serving a Low Country Boil Mandarin Style: Corn, Potatoes, Mushrooms; Andouille Sausage, Shrimp, Crawfish, Claims, Scallops,*

**Cost of Admittance:**

**\$20.00 per person**

**All the Great Seafood and Fellowship you can handle! Please bring your sons, grandsons, friends and co-workers. Scholarships available.**



## ***Friendship Club***

The Friendship Club met at the church, on Thursday, March 12, for a potluck dinner. There were 26 in attendance.

Next month, on Thursday, April 9, we are having a picnic lunch. We need cold cuts, chicken salad, baked beans, potato salad, deviled eggs, chips and anything else you have on a picnic. We would like someone to bring a couple loaves of bread and they need to contact me, so we don't have too many people bringing it.



We will meet at the church, at 12:00 noon, then car pool to Green Cove Springs, for the outing. If the weather does not allow us to be outdoors, we will eat at the church.

Please come and join us for food and friendship.

Thank you,  
Deloris Landis

### ***Prayer of Confession for Earth Day and the Festival of God's Creation***

The Festival of God's Creation is April 22, 2015, the Sunday closest to Earth Day, which is April 19, 2015, and celebrates God's gift of the earth, our planetary home.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:

You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it.

Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence.

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet,  
grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain  
us with the bread of life.

In the name of Jesus Christ and for the sake of your creation, we pray. Amen

### ***COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM WORLD MALARIA DAY, APRIL 25, 2015***

Calvary United Methodist Church is joining other churches across Florida, to raise money and awareness for "Imagine No Malaria" by hosting a pancake breakfast.

On the menu will be Blueberry, Chocolate Chip, Banana and Plain pancakes, as well as delicious Ham.

This is a fundraiser of \$5 per person, for the "Imagine No Malaria" Fund.

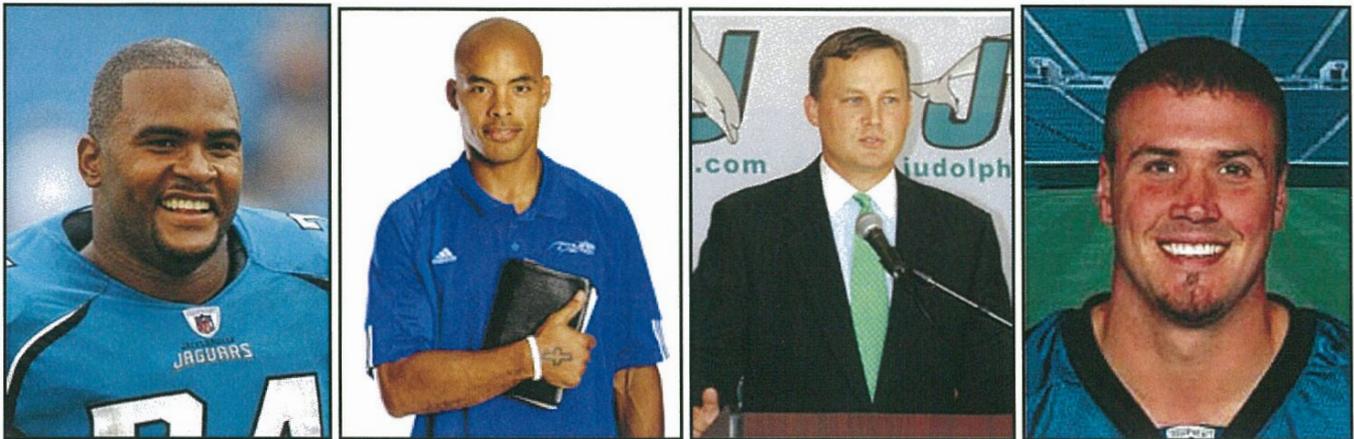
*Pancake  
Breakfast*



***EVERYONE IS WELCOME***

# "4th and 1" Men's Rally & BBQ

Christ-filled messages from Maurice Williams, Anthony Johnson, Alan Verlander & Chris Hanson



## Speaker Profiles:

**Maurice Williams:** son of God & brother in Christ, husband to Reulonda, father of three, Michigan Wolverine, former Jaguar offensive tackle, local business owner.

**Anthony Johnson:** son of God & brother in Christ, husband to Shelley, father of five, grandfather of one, Notre Dame Fighting Irish, former Jaguar Running Back, current Chaplain of the Jaguars

**Alan Verlander:** son of God & brother in Christ, husband to Bonnie, father of three, Samford Bulldog, former Athletic Director at JU, current COO of Gator Bowl Sports & Entertainment.

**Chris Hanson:** son of God & brother in Christ, husband to Kasey, father of three, Marshall Thundering Herd, former Jaguar and Patriots punter, business owner.

**Sat, April 11, 2015 4:00-7:30 Check-In 3:00-3:45 at Mandarin United Methodist Church**  
11270 San Jose Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32223-7286 (1/2 mile south of I-295)

**WHY 4th and 1?** *In today's society men must buckle our chinstraps tighter and fight for every single yard. All men need guidance from Jesus Christ to make the right call ...*

Tickets are \$20 in advance and include dinner catered by Bono's BBQ.

**Everyone must sign-up and pay in advance at [www.mandarinumc.com](http://www.mandarinumc.com).** Ask your son, your grandson, your neighbor and your co-worker to come with you. **Full and partial scholarships are available.** Please contact Michael Maxwell at [michaelmaxwellumc@gmail.com](mailto:michaelmaxwellumc@gmail.com) with any questions or scholarship needs and please include your telephone number(s).

***Are you ready for some manly fellowship, brotherly faith-sharing,  
world-class BBQ .....and maybe a little football?***

brought to you by the **United Methodist Men** of Northeast Florida

## **Recipe of the Month**

### **French Toast Souffle**

*Submitted by Sarah Ferguson from her mother's recipe box*

#### **Ingredients**

*10 cups sturdy white bread cut into 1 inch cubes (Pepperidge Farm Hearty White is the best)  
cooking spray*

*1 (8 oz) 1/3 less fat cream cheese softened*

*8 large eggs*

*1 1/2 cups 2 % reduced fat milk*

*2/3 cup half and half*

*1/2 c maple syrup*

*1/2 tsp vanilla extract*

*2 TBS powdered sugar*

*3/4 c maple syrup*

#### **Instructions**

- 1. Place bread cubes in 13 X 9 baking dish coated with cooking spray.*
- 2. Beat cream cheese at medium speed of mixer until smooth.*
- 3. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing well after each addition.*
- 4. Add milk, half and half, 1/2 cup maple syrup, vanilla and mix until smooth.*
- 5. Pour mixture over top of bread, cover and refrigerate overnight.*
- 6. Preheat oven to 375°.*
- 7. Remove pan from refrigerator and let stand on counter for 30 minutes.*
- 8. Bake for 50 minutes or until set.*
- 9. Sprinkle souffle with powdered sugar and serve with warm maple syrup on the side.*

If you would like to share one of your favorite recipes, please put it in the "newsletter" box by the office or email it to [newsletter@calvaryumcop.org](mailto:newsletter@calvaryumcop.org) and we will do our best to feature it in next month's Recipe of the Month section.

**HELP THE SPIRIT TEAM SEND THE  
CHOIR DIRECTOR PACKIN'**

**TO THE MUSIC & ARTS WEEK  
AT LAKE JUNALUSKA, NC**

**BUTTONS & BEAUX FASHIONS**

**COMING JUNE 19, 2015**

**FEATURING THE MEN OF CALVARY**



# Calvary United Methodist

112 Blanding Blvd  
Orange Park, FL 32073-2621



Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8AM - 12PM  
Phone: 904-272-4210 Fax: 904-276-1367  
Email: calvaryumcop@att.net  
Web address: www.calvaryumcop.org



**We support our family and friends in the military with prayer.**

### **Over Seas Assignments**

Aaron Ermer  
Alex Fogel  
Bobby Price

Daniel Richardson  
Ronald Mark Tello

### **U.S. Assignments**

David Chapman  
Tyler Crabtree  
Christine Davies  
Matt Ellison  
Jonathan Emler  
James Ferguson  
Brian Fuller

John Haney  
Josh Haney  
Mario Hernandez  
Shannon (Hause) Kizer  
Christopher Mills  
Mark Neil Natividad  
Brian Perkins

Gene Register  
Maverick Stowers  
Robbie Taylor  
Ali Varong-Ellison  
Aaron Williams



### **April Birthdays**

- 1st Michael Mantone, Deborah Ronan
- 2nd Jennie Greany
- 3rd Ron Coleman, Mary Studzinski
- 4th C.J. Hernaez
- 6th Beth Locke
- 7th Barbara Taylor, Kim Wilds
- 9th Nikki Fenwick
- 10th Larry Rood
- 12th Darlene Myers, Luis Ordonez
- 13th Nancy Masser
- 16th Sharon Harris
- 19th Joan Killebrew, Connie Lorey
- 27th Mario Hernandez
- 28th Gladys Lopez
- 30th Zachary Banks, Bob Jones

*The Beacon* is published monthly by Calvary United Methodist Church.

To submit items, please e-mail to newsletter@calvaryumcop.org, or leave in the office marked "newsletter", or leave your submission in the slot marked NEWSLETTER outside the office door.

Items for the May issue are due by **April 15th.**

**Check your email for a copy of *The Beacon*. Let us know if you would like to be included in the email listing.**