



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

# The Beacon

## CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2015

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### BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR 2015

Calvary's first, annual New Year's Eve celebration got off to a great start, beginning with a progressive dinner. We had 14 in attendance, including three hostesses. We started at the home of Mary and Jim Stowers, with a fabulous salad bar. Then, on to Diane and Larry Rood's home for wonderfully prepared broccoli cheese and potato soups. Our main course was at the home of Robin and Jamie Stowers, with an outstanding lasagna. Needless to say, we didn't need dessert, but on we went to Calvary, where we were joined by others for cake and ice cream, before the 11:30 service.



At each home we added something to our attire, beginning with hats (or tiaras) and horns at Mary and Jim's. At the Rood's, we added beads and the last stop, at Robin and Jamie's, produced masks. As you can see in our pictures, a good time was had by all.



Pastor Esther led us in a wonderful New Year's Eve service, which included singing, scripture, testimonies and Holy Communion. As the New Year came in, we were all in prayer, at the altar. In closing, we lit our candles and proceeded outside, celebrating with hugs and shouts of joy, for the New Year.

This was a wonderful way to bring in the New Year, with our church family; good food, fun and fellowship. We would like to see this annual event continue and grow and we hope you will consider joining us on December 31, 2015.

### Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. Blended

11:00 a.m. Traditional

9:30 Sunday School



# Pennings by Pastor Esther



Dear Friends:

“Watching a small child die from malaria is a horrific experience. First come the headache, tiredness, weakness in the joints and general malaise, followed by a very high fever. Then the fever’s effect on the brain causes the child’s muscles to jerk, just before the end.” ~Tom Gillem, *Interpreter Jul/Aug 2009*.

Our church has the opportunity to change this image and help eliminate deaths from malaria. Through ***Imagine No Malaria***, we can save thousands of lives. “It is possible to give without loving,” said John Wesley, “but it is impossible to love without giving.” ***Imagine No Malaria*** is our opportunity to respond to our calling—to show our love through our generous gifts.

In 2006, our Denomination embraced the message “Send a Net, Save a Life” through Nothing But Nets. Over four years we raised \$7.5 million for this cause, and in doing so, ignited the passion of our members for global health. Now, through ***Imagine No Malaria***, we’ve increased our participation tenfold, because we believe that we are called to strengthen the infrastructure of malaria treatment and prevention to ensure the greatest impact of this effort. Our efforts may have started with nets, but they won’t end there! We will revitalize hospitals and clinics that treat malaria and distribute medication. We will support and train additional community health workers who educate communities about proper net usage and other simple ways to prevent malaria. We will build communications networks to spread health information. Finally, we will enhance partnerships with leaders in global health to leverage the greatest impact of our resources.

Please join us and help our church reach our goal to raise \$1,000 in 2015. We have a jug conveniently located in the sanctuary for your gifts. You will hear about creative ways to think about giving during the Lenten season which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

We are blessed to live in a country where diseases of poverty like malaria do not touch our lives on a daily basis. In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 60 seconds. We can help to provide hope through this effort. \$5 is enough to provide a lifesaving course of medication. \$10 protects a family. Just imagine what \$100... \$500... \$1000... could do. How many lives will you save?

I thank the Lord for your faithfulness and love of God. The spirit of Christ is in our church as we care for each other in our times of need and reach out to a hurting world.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Esther*

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## **INTRODUCING THE SPIRIT TEAM**

In years past, Calvary has had a strong feeling of family, love and fulfillment and it has created great spiritual bonds in our church. The Spirit Team is here to help with some of those things that brought us together, to share our spiritual and family love.

The goal for 2015 is to participate in activities that will feed us spiritually and personally and will serve both Calvary UMC and the community. The team will sponsor some activities and be available to assist the various committees and groups, with their plans for other events.

If you have an idea for an event or activity or your group needs assistance, contact Nancy Walker 264-9790 or Robin Stowers 838-9451.

## **February Spotlight: Sue Mikell**

Sue Carroll Mikell was born to parents, Leonard and Beatrice, in Macclenny, FL. She has an older sister, Betty, who lives in Wilkesboro, NC and an older brother, Billy, who lives in Savannah, GA. Her family also includes her daughter, Rene and grandson, K.D.

Sue attended Macclenny Elementary and Junior High Schools, Baker County High School and Florida State University.

She worked 22 years with SCL Credit Union and 20 years with Whitney's Marina, before she retired. Retirement wasn't for her and she assumed her position here at Calvary in August of 2011. She currently holds the titles of Office Administrator & Financial Secretary/Treasurer.



Prior to joining the Calvary family, Sue was looking for a home church. Her background was Lutheran, but none of those churches felt right. When she came to Calvary, in September of 2008, she knew this was the one. Everyone was friendly and made her feel welcome and the spiritual message served her needs.

Shortly after she started coming to Calvary, she was playing basketball and fell and broke her arm. It was a very bad break and she was in rehab for a few weeks. People from Calvary visited often and that sealed the deal. Calvary was definitely her new church.

Sue has been a part of many groups and activities, here at Calvary, such as Prayer Warriors, Finance and Communications committees, Key Leader for Celebrate Jesus and Sunday School teacher and the Children's Ministry.

Her hobbies include spending time with her family and friends, reading and sailing.

Sue's membership with Calvary UMC comes with a dual blessing. She has found a comfortable, spiritual family and we have embraced a loving and capable sister, who is willing to share her time and talents for God's work. We thank you, Sue, and ask God's blessings for you.

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## **Valentines from God**

I was in Wal-Mart and walked by the Valentine's Day card section. There were cards of every size, shape and color. Some were simple and others ornate. There was a Valentine for everyone there, not just your sweetheart, but for any and all persons you love. Millions of these will be purchased and given out for that special day.

As I stood there looking at all those Valentines and the people buying them to give to family and friends all over the world, the thought came to me, "God sends Valentines too!" Valentines are messages of love. Who loves more than God? And each of us is God's beloved. Every day is Valentine's Day, for God showers love upon us in so many ways, every second of our lives.

The Best Valentine of All: **"For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."** John. 3:16

## ***Golf Tournament***

Calvary UMC needs our help. Various fund raising activities have been discussed, including sponsoring a Golf Tournament. A golf tournament can be very profitable; however it's an event that requires a great deal of advance planning and commitment from many people, especially the participating golfers.

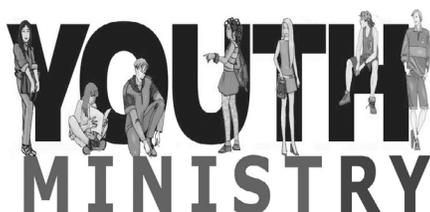
This can be a big money maker for our church, but we need your help. You do not need to be a golfer, just a willing Calvary supporter.

How many of you are interested in planning and supporting the event? How many of you are golfers and would like to be a part of the event? How many of you know golfers, that you could invite to participate?

If you're interested in assisting and/or playing, contact Bill Walker, 264-9790 or Larry Rood, 738-1190.

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

Great things happen when we work together. So with that in mind, once again we thank all of you, in advance, who supported SOUPER BOWL Sunday. Your donations will directly support our food pantry. THANK YOU !!!

We are organizing a confirmation class for the youth this spring. If you have any questions please see 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*

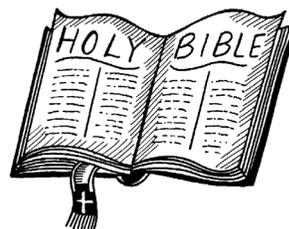
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## ***Opportunities to study God's Word***

*"Invitation to the New Testament"*  
Wednesdays at 2 PM  
Beginning February 4th  
with Pastor Esther

*"Invitation to the Old Testament"*  
Thursdays at 2 PM  
(Start Day TBA)  
with Gene Clark



*Bible Strong Group*  
Thursday evenings at 7 PM  
Beginning February 5th  
Entitled "God's Will"  
with Robin and Jamie Stowers

## Lent

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sunday's, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and the seventh Wednesday before Easter. It derives its name from the early ecclesiastical custom of putting ashes on the heads of believers on that day, as a sign of penitence. Calvary will have an Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 18 at 7 PM.

Where do the ashes come from and how are they used?

If there is access to dried palm leaves, they may be burned and ground into a good black ash. Actually the Palm fronds from Palm Sunday should be saved for Burning for the next years' Service. But they also come from just burning some dried leaves and ground into a fine powder, or even a Church supply house.

The thumb is used to place the sign of the cross on the foreheads of those receiving it. The ash itself is a sign of mortality. As at baptism, the cross is the sign of Christ's death AND victory over sin and death. The gospel texts for this service that speak of not showing our piety before the whole world mean that, but Christian worship is not public in that way. People are encouraged to keep the ash in place during the rest of the service.

After worship, remove the ash by rubbing it with oil, not with water. If the ash was applied "dry," it will generally rub off easily, leaving at most, a dull smudge. Those who wish a more thorough cleaning may use a few drops of olive oil on a moistened finger, and a quick wipe of a cloth towel. **DO NOT USE WATER** to try to remove ash. This may create a caustic solution that will cause skin irritation and possibly more serious burns.

Also the extra ash from the service could be used for the following year. It may be stored indefinitely, or reverently returned to the earth.

***Don't forget the worship service to begin the season of Lent with the imposition of Ashes on Wednesday February 18th at 7 PM!!***



**CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
6:00 PM**

**BRING YOUR SWEETHEART(S), GOOD FRIEND(S), OR  
JUST COME FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.**

**DINNER INCLUDES SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE,  
SALAD, BREAD AND DESSERT.**

**TICKETS \$10**

**DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1**



**CELEBRATION OF LOVE**

## **Recipe of the Month**

According to the American Heart Association, we should eat 2 servings of fish per week to prevent coronary heart disease. Fish and shellfish are excellent sources of lean protein, low in saturated fat, and high in essential omega-3 fatty acids. Here is your dose for the month.

### **Manhattan Beach Seafood Chowder**

*Submitted by Larry Rood from "The Daniel Plan" Cookbook*

#### **Ingredients**

2 TBLs coconut oil	1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes (Rotel)
1 c sweet onion	2 c water
1 c diced scallions (leeks)	1 TBLs dried thyme
1 c diced celery	1 tsp kosher or sea salt
_ c diced carrot	_ tsp black pepper
_ c diced green bell pepper	2 c clam juice
3 garlic cloves, minced	1 bay leaf
1 (6 oz) can tomato paste	_ lb shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 c water	_ lb halibut, skinned, cut into 1 inch squares
2 c diced red potatoes	_ lb salmon, skinned, cut into 1 inch squares
2 c tomatoes	_ lb cod, skinned, cut into 1 inch squares
	(or any kind of fish you like)

#### **Instructions**

1. In a large soup or stock pot over medium-high heat, heat oil. Sauté onion, leek, celery, carrot, bell pepper, and garlic till soft about 12-15 minutes or until lightly browned.
2. Stir in tomato paste; cook 1 minute. Add water, stir and bring to a boil. Simmer 5 minutes.
3. Add potatoes, all tomatoes, water, thyme, salt, pepper, clam juice, and bay leaf. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 30 minutes.
4. Add fish. Cover and simmer 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Discard bay leaf.
5. Optional seasoning for a spicier taste, use Old Bay Seasoning

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.

### **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



# Calvary United Methodist

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

### **Over Seas Assignments**

Aaron Ermer  
Alex Fogel  
Tyler Crabtree

Bobby Price  
Daniel Richardson  
Ronald Mark Tello

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

David Chapman  
Christine Davies  
Matt Ellison  
James Ferguson  
Brian Fuller  
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



### **February Birthdays**

9th Barbara Tello  
11th Bonnie Rustmann  
16th Amy Pilarski  
17th Philip Natividad, Bill Walker  
20th Bill McGaha  
22nd Kay Lewis  
23rd Bryan Scott Gernhard  
Ivey Gernhard  
26th Mildred Besco  
27th Mary Dickson  
29th Bob Rustmann

*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 March issue are due by **February 15th.**

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