



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

# The Beacon

## CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 2015

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### ***2016 Chili Cook Off***

Do you believe you are a good cook who likes a real challenge with competition from 10 other cooks???? Do you just like to eat chili and experience an evening of good fellowship and entertainment along with delicious food??? Then you need to mark your calendar for January 15th as that is the date for our 2016 Annual Chili Cook-off.

You may think it is too early to announce this event but with the busy holidays approaching fast, we thought you would like an advance notice in order to begin making your plans. Further details will be announced as the date gets closer.

So until then, dust off the recipes and get ready for an evening you won't want to miss!!!

You can contact Barbara Coleman at (904) 614-2324 if you have any further questions.

### ***Update from Fellowship***

I would like to take a minute to say I am sorry for my lack of attention to my duties as your Fellowship Coordinator. I will try to pick up the pace and get back on track. #1 I took almost 3 weeks off to travel, visit relatives and friends up north with a side trip, via a bus tour, that covered most of the state of West Virginia. 2nd, Upon my return, I found out my granddaughter, Tara Richardson, was suffering almost complete paralysis from Brain Cancer. 3rd My brother in Ohio has been taken to a hospital where his condition is not good. THANK YOU to everyone who is keeping Tara, my brother and our families in your prayers. We know that JESUS is with us and with HIS help, we will cope.

Bobbie Allison,  
Fellowship Coordinator

### **Sunday Worship**

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

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

**9:30 Sunday School**

### ***Pastor's Reception***

Following the wedding ceremony on December 5th at noon, of our pastor to Joe O'Hearn, please stay to greet the newlyweds in the Fellowship Hall.

# Pennings by Pastor Esther



I want to share with you this article by Dr. Steve Harper. It is especially relevant during the busy days of Advent and Christmas!

“The sign read, “Traffic Calming Ahead.” I had never seen a sign like that, so I wondered what was awaiting us around the corner as we neared the KOA campground we were going to stay in for the next few days.

When we came to the spot that the sign was describing, it was a speed bump. That little raised portion of the street designed to cause you to slow down going over it — or — jar loose all your dental fillings if you ignore it.

I have been over many speed bumps in my lifetime, but for some reason this one became a spiritual formation metaphor for me: “Traffic Calming Ahead.”

I believe God puts “traffic calming” places in our souls — places intended to slow our pace and calm our spirit. God knows our tendency to go full-steam ahead in our 24/7 world where, by definition, too much is asked of us and thrown at us.

So, God tells us there are “Soul Calming Ahead” moments, and like the speed bumps we can honor them or experience the spiritual jarring effect that jolts us without calming us. We can race through the soul-bumps and have nothing to show for it but an anxious spirit — worried and troubled about too many things.

Each day has “Soul Calming Ahead” moments provided by nature: sunrise/sunset, leaves moving in the breeze, birds flying in formation, squirrels playing outside our window. Fall is full of such moments. In addition, there are spiritual disciplines which help us calm down: silence, solitude and simplicity. “Soul Calming Ahead.”

Long ago, David described it this way, “I have calmed and quieted, my soul, like a child quieted at its mother’s breast” (Psalm 131:2).

“Soul Calming Ahead.”

Slow down.”

Words of wisdom during hectic days of preparation.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Esther*

## **Children’s Ministry**

Come one, come all to the Community Breakfast December 19th at 9AM followed at 10:30AM for Children’s Ministry program titled “Twas the Night before Jesus Birth” followed by a Special Visitor until noon. Come be merry and have fun and fellowship. Children of all ages bring your parents.

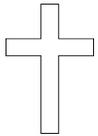
*Barbara Hoose, Children’s Ministry Chair*

## **Worship Notes**

The Christmas decorations we use on the Church Christmas Tree are not ornaments but Chrismons. Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. They are often used on Christmas trees in Churches and Christians' homes.

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, USA. She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is traditional that Christians groups can make their own Chrismons with their favorite symbols on.

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory. Chrismons can be made from nearly anything.



**The Cross** symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a cross.



**The Jerusalem Cross** was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolize the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of Jesus when he died on the cross.



**The Anchor Cross** reminds Christians that Jesus is the anchor of their faith.



**The Fish** is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fisherman.



**Alpha and Omega** are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they symbolize that Christians believe Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.



**The Chi-Rho** looks like a "P" with an "X" on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.



**Five Pointed Star** represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.



These Symbols represent the Christian "Trinity" of God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit. **The Triquetra** is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. **The Trefoil** (at the bottom) is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



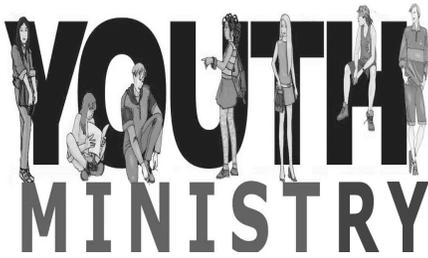
**The Cup or Chalice** is a symbol of the Mass, Eucharist or Communion. It represents God's forgiveness.



**The Butterfly** is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.

These symbols are symbols of Christ and the church.

*The Worship Committee will be decorating the Sanctuary the Saturday after Black Friday at 9am. We welcome assistance from the congregation, as we work to give the Sanctuary a festive look. For further information, call Connie Lorey or Robin Stowers.*



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

Here at Calvary we have a warm loving accepting youth group where all youth can be a part. Through the school year we take part in service projects such as “Souper Bowl Sunday” to help the homeless or those in need of food with Calvary food pantry. Participate in the selling of pumpkins in the Pumpkin Patch! We also perform in the annual Christmas play here at Calvary. Additionally we take part in the Easter egg hunt. We also perform dramas during Holy Week.

The Christmas skits this year will take place on Sunday December 13 at both services. We hope you will come enjoy the program and support the youth.

Our Youth Group is open to all ‘Rising’ Sixth Graders through High School seniors. We would love for any and all youth to come and share in Christian fellowship! Our regular meetings take place on Wednesday evenings 5:30 till 7:00. During that time we also enjoy pizza or tacos and hamburgers, and sometimes steamed lobster. And if we are real lucky, Burrito Brothers!!

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please speak with Youth Director Fran “The Man” Ronan or his PA, George Clooney. We hope to see you real soon!

Email FTMYD@hotmail.com 904-272-4210

*Fran “The Man” Ronan*

### ***Cuba Updates***

Here are the dates for travel for 2016. I would like to see a group of us go from Calvary. You just don’t get the whole picture until you see it for yourself.

Remember that the Cuban government requires that each of our trips be tied to an “event;” but the reality is that most (or all) of our travelers’ time will be spent with their sister churches. The trips are typically a week, though shorter trips are now possible. Expenses run around \$1,000, and we ask each church to make a love offering to their sister church of \$1,000 if possible.

Exact dates will come later, but here are our six travel opportunities:

#### **May – Seminary Graduation**

Need expressions of interest: January

Need commitments by: March

#### **June – Annual Conference**

Need expressions of interest: January

Need commitments by: March

#### **July – Youth/Young Adults Conferences**

Need expressions of interest: February

Need commitments by: April

#### **September – Women’s Conference**

Need expressions of interest: April

Need commitments by: June

#### **October – Men’s Conference**

Need expressions of interest: May

Need commitments by: July

Please spread the word and let’s energize our Cuba ministry like never before!

Blessings, George Reed

***How one church put Christ back into Christmas  
with the celebration of St. Nicholas Day*** *By Richelle Thompson*

“St. Nicholas stopped by our church last night.

Although today is the feast day for the bishop, our church celebrated his vigil on Sunday evening with crafts, cookie decorating and lots of young kids squealing and chasing each other around the tables.

St. Nicholas made his grand entrance, and the room stopped. Eyes widened. A few toddlers cried. A sister taunted a brother : “I told you he was watching. You better be nice to me.”

Children (and a few adults) climbed on the old bishop’s lap, and they talked about the year – the good, the bad, and the hoped-for. St. Nicholas presented each comer with a brown paper sack of goodies – chocolate coins, nuts, and an orange. The kids were as pleased with that as Ralphie with his Red Ryder BB gun in A Christmas Story.”

There’s something wonderful about celebrating St. Nicholas Day. It feels simpler, with enough distance from the Christmas morning toy explosion to talk about the kindness and compassion exemplified in the life of this saint.

There’s the story of Nicholas providing a dowry for three young women to keep them from a life of poverty or slavery and the legend of the saint as a protector of young children and savior from famine.

We know that Nicholas was part of the first Council of Nicaea, which laid the foundation for the Nicene Creed that we recite each Sunday, some 1,685 years later.

In this period of expectation and waiting, St. Nicholas provides another reminder of the virtues that connect our church and people through the ages.

How will you honor the life of St. Nicholas today?

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### ***Finance Corner***

FLOWERS: It is truly a blessing to be able to honor a loved one who has either passed away or for a special person(s) in our life that is celebrating a birthday, anniversary, etc. by arranging to have flowers placed on the altar for them. In January of each year, a new flower calendar is placed on the back wall of the sanctuary where you can reserve a date(s) to purchase the flowers. As of January 1, 2016, the cost of altar flowers will be \$30.00 per basket.

As a reminder and in order to continue to comply with IRS rules, it is necessary to identify the use of the flowers after the Sunday worship service as follows:

1. When submitting your payment, please submit a separate check and annotate that it is for “flowers”.
2. If you are taking the flowers to a hospital, nursing home, etc., please annotate “flower donation” on your check.

This ruling includes flowers not only purchased for Sunday worship, but for Easter Lilies, Christmas poinsettias or any other special event.

You can contact Sue Mikell, 272-4210, if you need further guidance concerning flowers.

Also, 2016 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up on Sunday, December 6th, in the hall. Please pick up your box then.

## Dress A Girl

Want to be a part of the mission fields without leaving your home??

Recently I heard about a wonderful ministry called “Dress a Girl Pinewood.” This year, in 2015, Pinewood Presbyterian Church set a goal of making and delivering 200 dresses to girls in third world countries. They met that goal and have set a new goal for 2016 to make 400 dresses.

I’m looking to be a part of this wonderful ministry and enlisting the help of Calvary. What??? You don’t sew? That’s ok, the material needs to be cut out so those who do sew can have it ready to put together. Did I mention they also make little dolls to put in the pockets? Maybe you are artistic and can paint the faces on the dolls. MAYBE you are someone like me who loves to iron... now that’s a lost art!

In other words, there is something for everyone. I have contacted the facilitator of this ministry, Connie Gooden and she said that we can arrange for her to come to our church and do a demonstration of putting these dresses together.

Let’s make 2016 a year to be a blessing to little girls that don’t even have a dress to protect them not only from the elements but also from predators that would otherwise snatch them up. Please contact Diane Rood at 904-993-2586 if you are interested in becoming a part of something beautiful!



Below is an insert from their Facebook page:

“God’s love and protection are so worth sharing and so is this...

**A FEW PIECES OF FABRIC BECOME A LITTLE GIRL’S CLOAK OF DIGNITY AND LOVE**

A clip here, a line of stitching there, and two plain old pieces of fabric are formed into a delightful dress for a little girl.

Not just any little girl, mind you. A girl who has nothing: no other material possessions to her name. This girl is one of millions of children who live in such abject poverty that her parents are forced to make choices between essentials such as food or clothing, and food inevitably wins out. She often also lives in a world where she finds herself preyed upon at an early age, particularly if she’s inadequately dressed.

So, to answer the question posed in the photo above, figuratively the type of dress this fabric will become is a cherished dress. No matter what the pattern of the material, no matter if it has pockets, or ruffles, or not, each dress these girls receive will be treasured as most likely their first personal possession and quite often even their first item of clothing.

It will become her cloak of dignity, her cotton suit of armor to provide her with at least a modicum of protection, and it will become a message that says she is cared for by her family as well as by people across the globe.

This is the type of dress the material became physically.”



## **NEW YEAR'S EVE PROGRESSIVE DINNER & CANDLELIGHT GATHERING**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN CALVARY'S SPIRIT TEAM FOR  
A PROGRESSIVE DINNER AND CANDLELIGHT GATHERING, TO  
WELCOME THE YEAR 2016

Each course of the Progressive Dinner will be served at a different home, ending at the church for dessert and games. If you are not available for the dinner, you are welcome to have dessert and play games, starting at 10:00 PM, and/or attend the Candlelight Gathering, at 11:30 PM. The dinner time schedule will be announced at a later date.

On November 22, 2015, you will find information/reservation sheets in your bulletins at both services and on the tables outside the doors of the Sanctuary. You may also contact Nancy Walker or Robin Stowers, with your questions.

This is a wonderful way to welcome the new year. Those who attended last year, praised the good food, the fellowship and the spiritual blessing of leaving behind the cares of the present year, to receive renewal of the Love of God, in the coming year.  
JOIN US FOR EARTHLY AND SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT

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### ***Recipe of the Month***

#### **Grandma's Sugar Cookies**

*submitted by Sarah Ferguson*

#### **Ingredients**

<i>1 stick Crisco</i>	<i>1 tsp vanilla</i>
<i>1 1/2 cup sugar</i>	<i>1 tsp baking powder</i>
<i>2 Lg eggs</i>	<i>1/4 tsp salt</i>
<i>3 cups sifted All Purpose Flour</i>	

#### **Instructions**

*Cream sugar & Crisco.*

*Beat eggs, 1 at a time and add.*

*Add vanilla.*

*Sift flour, baking powder & salt together and slowly add to creamed mixture.*

*Divide dough to manageable size and roll out on floured surface to 1/4 to 1/8' thick.*

*Use cookie cutters of desired shapes (or just cut into squares) and place shapes on baking sheet. (don't grease).*

*Sprinkle with colored sugar sprinkles.*

*Bake 375° for 5 minutes (they don't get golden brown unless burned.)*

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.



# 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  
Bobby Price

Daniel Richardson  
Rae-Ann Tello  
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  
Brian Perkins  
Gene Register

Maverick Stowers  
Robbie Taylor  
Ali Varong-Ellison  
Aaron Williams



### **December Birthdays**

- 4th Dylan Banks, Roni Byrd  
Frank Taylor
- 8th Robin Stowers
- 9th Gloria Cox
- 10th Mike Zeiman
- 12th Ken Aymond, Jean Burgoyne
- 13th Bill Morris
- 15th Teresa Long
- 20th Rhonda Barlow, James Ferguson
- 23rd Bobbie Allison
- 24th John Killebrew
- 27th Mary Stowers
- 28th Tom Wheelhouse
- 30th Annette Jeggery
- 31st Jocelyn Miller

*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 January issue are due by **December 15th.**

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