



The
United
Methodist
Church

The Beacon

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pennings by Pastor Esther

As we come to the end of a school year celebrating the passage of our youth out of High School, I bring these reflections.

Should we chain our children to the bedpost until they reach adulthood? Should we shield them from all negative influences until they can make mature decisions?

When Dr. Willis Tate was at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, he told of a mother who gallantly tried to protect her son. She wrote a long letter to Dr. Tate about her son who was coming to enroll as a freshman. She wanted the president to make sure that the boy had a "good" roommate who would encourage him to go to church and not use bad language. She did not want the roommate to smoke or otherwise negatively influence her son.

But the mother's closing remarks make the letter unforgettable: "The reason all of this is so important is that it is the first time my boy has been away from home, except for the three years he spent in the Marines."

Parents want to protect their children. But perhaps more importantly, most parents want their children to develop sufficient inner resources to protect themselves in potentially destructive situations. They want to equip them to be independent, to make responsible decisions on their own.

Educator Leo Buscaglia said, "Don't smother each other. No one can grow in the shade." Which means that, as their children grow into adulthood, parents must gradually learn to give up thinking that they can protect them and learn better ways to be helpful. Maybe their most important job is just to love them. And isn't love really what children of any age truly need from their parents?

Blessings and Peace,

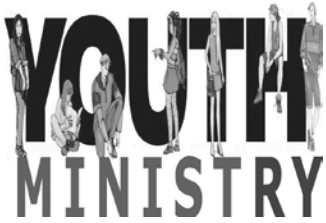
Pastor Esther

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Blended

11:00 a.m. Traditional

9:30 a.m. Sunday School



***** YOUTH NEWS *****

Well it's on our minds...there's no denying...summer's coming... The days are longer...the sun feels stronger...lizards are leaping...butterflies are butterflying...birds are singing "Rockin Robbin Tweet Tweet" and "Sunshine on my Shoulders"

We are gearing up for our summer program with games, activities, mission work assisting with Calvary's Vacation Bible school, and other events to make your summer a great one! We will have our regular Wednesday meetings all summer, but we will also have activities off-site such as surfing off the California coast...scuba diving off the Great Barrier reef and preparing for competition in the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Here at Calvary we have a warm loving accepting youth group where all youth can be a part. 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. We spend time in fellowship, discuss current events and share devotionals. 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

I Love the Church

I love the church. I am not naive about the church, or my own human nature, but I love the church. I loved serving as a pastor in the local church, and now I am blessed in the ministry of being a bishop. My love for the church recognizes her flaws; we hold the treasure of the gospel in earthen vessels, Paul wrote, to show that the transcendent belongs to God and not to us.

The church is a paradox; it is at once a school for saints and a hospital for sinners. The concept of paradox — holding two truths side by side — has helped me to process this General Conference and some of the previous ones. As I have watched and listened I have wondered: "Can we hold two truths side by side?"

In a conversation with the influential designer Roger Martin, Gregory Jones introduced me to the concept of opposable thinking, which avoids our tendency to set two solutions in opposition to each other. Along the way Jones asks about Martin's Mennonite faith, and he responds,

We're pacifists; pacifists cannot resort to shooting people to get their way. Part of my Mennonite faith is driven to help people figure out how to see the world in ways that are less black and white. You've got to try and find solutions. Integrative thinking is the process of finding solutions that lie between known options. They aren't just a compromise; they're better.

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I Love the Church con't

Martin goes on to insist, "You always have a different choice than the one presented to you."

So how might opposable and integrative thinking help a church that is seeking to honor strongly held and passionate truths that can seem, at first glance, to require the negation of the other?

For me, the possibilities are encouraging.

It is possible to desire internal accountability and trust within the Council of Bishops and more gracious and missional language in the *Book of Discipline* around human sexuality.

It is possible to uphold the Book of Discipline and to seek more restorative, less harmful ways to pursue justice and accountability.

It is possible to be both reconciling and confessing — these realities come together at the cross. "Movements" that claim these names would do well to more fully realize the riches of the words that identify them and live into their meaning.

It is possible to hold together John 1 (grace and truth) and John 17 (unity) without privileging either. We too easily separate these words conceptually, but in practice Jesus embodies them.

It is possible to live together as people with healthy boundaries, and yet to know the mercy of God which has no boundaries or borders.

It is possible to do the work of Jesus in the way of Jesus — the end never justifies the means.

It is possible that the Triune God has a purpose for the people called Methodist that is unknown to us, that transcends our modest tribal goals and outcomes, that includes and incorporates our rich and diverse gifts and birthrights. It is possible that we will depart from Portland after having encountered God in the "other," whoever that is for us, and that we will have fresh eyes to see a world that God loves in a more compassionate and Christlike way.

In these days that are shaping the church that I love, I am asking that God would give us a renewal of our minds (Romans 12), so we might not be limited in imagining the future that is being planned and prepared for us.

I am claiming the promise of Jesus: "With God all things are possible."
(Matthew 19:26)

Ken Carter is the resident bishop of the Florida Conference.



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
Joseph Haney
Josh Haney
Mario Hernaez
Shannon (Hause) Kizer
Christopher Mills
Brian Perkins

Gene Register
Maverick Stowers
Robbie Taylor
Jamison Thornton
Aaron Williams



June Birthdays

- 1st Corey Gernhard
- 2nd Katie Koon
- 3rd Peggy Clark
- 4th Jim Stowers
- 5th Lenny Koon, Jr.
- 6th Ron Harbin
- 9th Susan Crabtree
- 11th Melody Cox
- 14th Sheri Federice
- 19th Vicky Banks
- 20th Gene Clark, Tyler Crabtree
- 21st John Haney

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 July issue are due by **June 15th.**

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