



The
United
Methodist
Church

The Beacon

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 7, Issue 5 **May 2016**

Inside this issue:

GC Major Initiatives	2
Pennings By Pastor Esther	3
Pennings Con't Youth	4
Melissa's Story	5
May Birthdays	
Military Assignments	6
Calendar	7

FYI

Most of us, here at Calvary, really care about what goes on and are always interested in learning more about the various workings of the church. For the next few months, we will be spotlighting specific committees and groups. If something sparks your interest or you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact the chairperson, attend a meeting and/or volunteer to help in any area.

This month we are spotlighting the Children's Ministry, with Barbara Hoose as the Chairperson. This committee meets at 1:00 PM on the second Monday of each month, as needed.

Their purpose is to conduct programs and activities, that are inspirational and fun, for the age group of 12 years and under. Their goals are to establish interest within the church for this age group, ultimately including the community in the activities.

To date, they have sponsored the "Frozen" party in February, with 5 children participating. They decorated mitten cookies, and ate them, while they watched the movie "Frozen".

Their next event was the Egg Hunt, in March with 16 children in attendance. The event was held indoors due to rain. The children 5 years & under hunted eggs in the nursery area and the older children hunted in the sanctuary. The Easter Bunny took time out of his busy schedule to attend, as well as two live show bunnies that were there for the children to pet. The committee sincerely appreciates the generosity of the Calvary family, who donated the eggs, candy and their time.

The following is a tentative schedule of upcoming events.

May 21 - Bike Safety Rally

July 18 - 24 - Vacation Bible School (RSVP)

August 6 - Back to School Kid's Style Show, an event for the children to model their favorite new school outfit.

October 8 - TBA

December 10 - Christmas Program (RSVP)

The committee can always use help. At present, they need donations of cotton cloth in 2, 3, or 4 yard lengths or used bed sheets, for making costumes for Vacation Bible School.

If you are interested in helping with any activities, please contact Barbara Hoose.

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Blended

11:00 a.m. Traditional

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Major initiatives fact sheet:

general conference 2016

Therefore go...

Each day, each of us makes a decision about how we will use our time. We might use our time to relax, work or enjoy. Our time might be spent focusing inwardly or we may direct our time outwardly. Jesus told His disciples, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is a time when the global church focuses on how we will fulfill this command.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church and meets once every four years, and this year it will meet in Portland, Oregon (May 10-20). The 864 delegates from North America, Africa, Europe, Eurasia and the Philippines will gather to make decisions about the command to “therefore go and make disciples.”

It is at General Conference that delegates consider petitions and resolutions that have been proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences and other groups within the denomination. Delegates wrestle with today’s concerns, issues and problems in light of scriptural teachings and the church’s understanding of that teaching. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.

The Florida Conference elected 18 delegates and four reserve delegates to attend the 2016 General Conference. This election took place at the 2015 Annual Conference held at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach. The delegates are equally divided between clergy and laity who attend and serve churches in the Florida Conference. Florida has one of the most diverse delegations, reflecting the rich diversity within the United Methodist churches in the state of Florida. Those attending the General Conference have committed to an arduous time of preparation, prayer, study and faithful attendance. Each delegate is to consider the global nature of the church and how we might encourage and strengthen the command to go and make disciples.

In support of the delegates and the work of the 2016 General Conference, you are asked to pray. The Bishops have called for “131 Days of Prayer,” and Florida hosts a 24-hour prayer effort on April 14. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit, for clarity in the decisions that will be made and for unity within the church. Into a world that is struggling with poverty, violence, injustice and hurt, the church is called to Go! We are called to “Therefore go and make disciples...,” even while we bring hope, mercy, justice and love.

For more information, contact lay delegation leader Molly McEntire at mollymcentire@gmail.com or clergy delegation leader Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson at ds-nc@flumc.org.

Next Fact Sheet Topic: An Invitation to Grace



Pennings by Pastor Esther

Some thoughts from Bishop Carter as we approach General Conference May 10-20.

“So what do you think will happen at the General Conference?”

I’m often asked that question. Underneath are a variety of unspoken emotions: fear, anxiety, sadness, anticipation, excitement. It’s a question that’s voiced this year, perhaps with a greater sense of urgency, but it’s one we have asked before.

As we approach Portland, I’m thinking about two lay people with whom I served in recent General Conference delegations. Neither is a United Methodist today. Both came to the General Conference with a singular focus: in one instance, legislation around human sexuality; in the other, abortion. Both left the conference deeply demoralized, even disillusioned.

Disillusionment is a good word for how we approach this task. We may go into the conference with the illusion that we are leaders and that our arguments will prevail. Sometimes they will. At other times, they will not. So if you’re going to conference with one issue on your mind, you are distorting the purposes of Christian conferencing.

But let’s return to the question: “What will happen at the General Conference in Portland?” One meaning of that question is whether the church will change its language about human sexuality; another meaning is whether we will stay together as a church.

Regarding the latter question, we have been here before. Bishop Francis Asbury was a genius when making disciples and spreading scriptural holiness across the land. And yet he was also concerned with persistent divisions in the Methodist movement, which were rooted in different perspectives about polity, doctrine, and the practice of slavery.

“The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions” first appeared in 1792 when there were disagreements about polity. When the church divided over slavery in 1844, it was recovered and published in 1849. And in God’s providence, it was rediscovered in the months leading to the 2016 General Conference, like treasure hidden in a field.

As we prepare for the General Conference, we acknowledge as leaders that we have contributed to the conditions that threaten to divide our church. And in Asbury’s abridged work we are called to confession:

It would be well if we were so innocent ourselves, so that our consciences need not call us to inquire whether this is not partly the fruit of our own miscarriages. The church’s peace lies chiefly in our hands, and if we miscarry, and won’t understand instruction, nor bear admonition, nor do our parts, how little hope will be left of our tranquility. The body languishes when the physician is as bad as the disease (pp. 64–65).

The “heart and church divisions” of which Asbury spoke are the bitter fruit of seeds planted by bishops and advocates, clergy and laity. The prophetic word—“the church’s peace lies chiefly in our hands”—carries the force of an eighth-century prophet.

* * *

Our estrangement from each other originates in a disordered interior life. A disordered inner life takes visible shape in divisive and destructive practices that hinder the work of God. The cure for this condition is deeply rooted in the nature of God, who is love, and in the vision of a church that is one body. Separation from God, or the church of his Son Jesus Christ, is never God’s will.

Con’t on Page 4

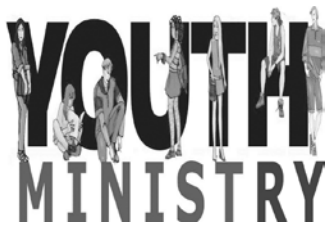
George Santanaya observed that “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The people called Methodist have experienced the pain of division in our scarred history. The cure awaiting our rediscovery, like treasure hidden in a field, is “*a full and frequent explication of the nature, preeminence, and power of love*” (p. 67).

So what will happen at the General Conference? Perhaps we will remember where we have been and, more importantly, who we are.

For the full article, check out Calvary’s Facebook page or the May/June/July 2016 issue of Circuit Rider.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Esther



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

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!!

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 Beatles songs ...”Here Comes The Sun”

We are gearing up for our summer program With games, activities, mission work and other events to make your summer a great one!

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

Melissa's Story

On February 22, 2016, a call came into the N E District office from a frantic, hysterical woman needing help. Jim Young, Community Outreach Director, talked with her by phone and learned that she had come to Florida from Indiana with her boyfriend seeking work. They had rented a room at a cheap motel on Philips Hwy to operate out of while job seeking.

The woman's name is Melissa. She told Jim through heavy sighs that she and her boyfriend had a big fight and he left her in the middle of the night and was not returning her calls. She said she had no money, did not know anyone in Jacksonville, and the motel was kicking her out of her room at 2 pm. She also told Jim that her mom and dad had died and she had no family other than her son who had just enlisted in the Marine Corp. So, she was all alone with no one to help her and she was crying and sobbing in a state of hysteria.

Jim gave Melissa the names and phone numbers of 5 shelters in the area who take single women and asked her to call him back with the results. She called back in 30 minutes to say that none of the shelters could take her.

Jim offered to take her to the bus station and buy her a one way ticket to Indianapolis. She accepted, so Jim drove to the motel to pick her up.

Melissa's countenance changed in front of Jim's eyes. She suddenly looked like a different person. Her face shone almost like an angel. She had just experienced the transforming power of Jesus flowing into her.

Jim and Melissa hugged and she promised to text him when she arrived safely in West Palm. Jim gave her 2 manna bags and \$20 as emergency money for her travels.

The next morning, Jim received a nice text from Melissa saying she arrived in West Palm after midnight and she was safe and very appreciative of his help.

We are all on a journey and when God places a person in need in front of us, it is our duty to stop what we are doing and help that person physically, emotionally and spiritually. This is why Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan.

As part of Community Outreach's Homelessness Campaign, the initial stage of supplying each District UMC with a free initial supply of Manna Bags is under way!

Each bag is a 1 gallon zip lock bag, with a label supplying directions and contacts for shelter, food, health and job providers, and containing drink, food, socks, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, wash cloth, Gospel of John, Upper Room devotional and a note handwritten by a child from one of our local UMC children's ministries.

For more in formation on how your church can participate in this outreach, contact Jim Young, COM Director, (904) 993-2387 mobile voice/text or email tocom-ne@flumc.org.





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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
Shannon (Hause) Kizer
Christopher Mills
Brian Perkins
Gene Register

Maverick Stowers
Robbie Taylor
Aaron Williams



May Birthdays

- 4th Carol Ramos
- 6th Abygail Ferguson
- 17th Ashlee Taliaferro
- 21st Autumn Magee Zang
- 26th Eric Walker

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

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