

the Messenger

† February 2020

Did God Just Speak to ME?

There is a question that burdens me on occasion – a fairly common question to be sure.

“How much longer will the Church be around?”

I’ve heard it regarding the organ campaign, and indeed any large capital improvement. There is legitimate concern that one’s financial investment in the Church be a sensible one.

“If the Church ends tomorrow, then I’ve wasted my money.”

“Maybe I should wait until I know for sure.”

“Let’s just hold back, especially with all this friction in the UMC.”

Yeah, it makes perfect sense – yet Calvary has pledged almost 1 million dollars thus far toward the new organ – 2/3 of the way there! Even with this lingering question, the Church is stepping forward – wow!

The phrase we hear most often that this scenario illustrates is: “stepping out in faith”. It’s the reason church members pledge to their church’s annual budget in addition to special projects. And, I would add, the reason people give of their time, talents, and energy in addition to financial support. But sometimes those words seem to ring a bit hollow to me because I hear them often enough. What am I missing? It must be more than a marketing ploy. (Forgive me, Lord.) Where is my faith?

Though I use the organ to highlight concerns about the future, I mostly wonder about all aspects of the Church – its worship and mission. I never expected to find an answer – I just had to “believe”. Well, just when I was cocky enough to accept *faith as ambiguity*, God tapped me on the shoulder and introduced me to a new friend – her name is Faith. Yes, Faith – with a capitol “F”. Here’s what happened:

Continues on page 2

One November Sunday I hustled the children's choir to the chancel steps to sing. Once settled into position, I suddenly saw what was before me. Adorned in blue and filling the Sanctuary with their song of praise, I received clarity about the future of the Church – the future of Calvary!

I even remember turning to the congregation and saying: "Here's your future!"

Of course, the children are the future – no great revelation there. But what it clarified in my heart was very revealing to me. Seeing 13 in choir this year instead of 3 last year, witnessing their eagerness to learn about Jesus, and listening to them sing and shout, I truly saw, for the first time, that there is indeed a future for the Church. When I met Faith, I received a more complete answer to that lingering, nagging question.

While it is true we do not know all the future holds for the church, Faith knows the full answer. What I do know is that the church will not end with us. We can see it in the children and youth now in our midst. We know that, at the very least, another generation will follow us. The Church will not end tomorrow! Why, then, would we choose to hold back and hesitate?

The question we can answer, then, is: How will we leave the church for them? How will we maintain Calvary in order to teach and inspire them to know Faith, give their all to the Church, and carry it forward into the future?

I offer my personal gratitude and admiration to all of you that know Faith. And I hope my story will help those of you who, like me, fret and worry about the future, to meet Faith – face to face.

Indeed, Faith knows the future. She is not blind. Faith sees far better than you and I. With Faith's help, we will create the answer, making it *the reality for the present* and have an *impact on the future*. This I believe, and I thank God for taking time to speak to me!

Faithfully, Joche



*A Prayer before singing
Christmas Eve Services.
Calvary Children's Choir*

Worship in February

The sermon series: **Reckless Love** based on the book by Tom Berlin continues this month. We are finding how Jesus' call to love our neighbors pushes us to cross all sorts of boundaries. To love as Jesus loved challenges us and changes us. We also begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday services on February 26.

Feb. 2	Holy Communion Lavish Love Luke 6:27-36	Rev. Larsen
--------	---	-------------

Feb. 9	Open-hearted Love Rev. Sullivan returns John 4:1-10 Scout Sunday	Rev. Larsen
--------	---	-------------

Feb. 16	President's Day Weekend Value the Vulnerable Luke 15:1-7	Rev. Sullivan
---------	--	---------------

Feb. 23	Emulate Christ John 13:31-35	Rev. Larsen
---------	---------------------------------	-------------

Feb 26	Ash Wednesday	
--------	----------------------	--

A service that calls us to repentances and the observance of a time of particular devotion and "holy habits." There will be the imposition of ashes at both services.

12 noon Chapel

7 PM - Sanctuary

Dear Calvary Church Family,

I want to express my gratitude for the wonderful “Bake a Batch” event and the gift I received as result of it.

I am very honored and thankful to all those who made, sold, and purchased cookies this Christmas season. Special thanks to Julie Schwartzenberg .

Your gift is TRULY appreciated.

So much time has passed from when I “re-did” the Nursery but, it is so nice to hear your name still associated with it. Although, I’m probably considered “old” now, with some of the children I watched over having children of their own, I am not too old to appreciate the time and effort that was put into re-creating the Nursery.

I plan on using your gift to address my continued rehabilitation. This will include a plan for 2020 to be the year of “Speaking better”—getting a Speech Pathologist to help me speak clearer, so more people, other than my parents and husband, can understand me.

Thank you again, for your lovely gift. I am truly blessed and feel so loved.

Jennifer Fischer Esler



Thank you to the entire congregation for your support in making the Bake a Batch event a success. Whether you baked cookies, assembled trays, purchased cookie trays or gave a donation, your support is appreciated.

Happy Valentine's Day from the Calvary Weekday School!



January was a busy month for us as we continue with registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Currently we have 80 students registered. Our target is 114 so we are off to a great start!

This month our three year old classes will go on a field trip to The Original Playhouse in New Market. I highly recommend this place to anyone with children ages 3-9. The playhouse offers two floors dedicated to imaginative play, creativity and experiential learning. I can't wait to hear what the students have to say about their visit.

Last month I highlighted our music program and this month I want to share some information about our Spanish program. The children have Spanish once a month with Ms. Meghan. The goal of the program is to provide exposure to a different language in a fun and engaging way. Ms. Meghan teaches the students colors, numbers, weather, family members, foods and animals through music, movement and games. In January, Ms. Meghan focused on weather with a song called "Copo de Nieve, Copo de Nieve" or Snowflake, Snowflake. It worked out perfectly with our snowy weather!

A big thank you goes out to Tom Stokes and the Board of Trustees for helping us with some repairs at the school as well as guiding us with applying for the Aging Grant. We have received approval for this grant but are waiting to hear what the allocation will be for the 2020-2021 school year. We used last year's funds to replace the playground equipment and will be replacing the ceilings and lights in two of our classrooms this spring.

Please continue to spread the word about our wonderful program and if you have time, come over for a visit. It's a happy place to be!

Patty Lockard, Director

THE 2019 FREDERICK SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Our 37th year

We are an ecumenical organization providing religious education in the greater Frederick, Maryland community. Courses are open to anyone who seeks to grow spiritually: young or old, laity or clergy, and from differing religious persuasions. The School offers courses on subjects of continuing interest in religious history, theology, religious education, ecumenical studies, church administration, spiritual growth, worship and the arts, and life issues.

This is our mission —

To provide courses in a broad range of religious subjects for adults of all ages with a variety of spiritual interests and needs. To provide the opportunity for spiritual growth from each individual student's starting point. To build friendships between persons, congregations, and congregational jurisdictions, enriching both the individual and the greater Frederick community.

Classes on six Mondays and Tuesdays, February 24 - March 31

Snow Dates: April 6 & 7

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick

4880 Elmer Derr Road

Frederick, MD 21703-7427

Mondays 1:00-3:00

1. Canticles: Songs from Scripture - Wayne L. Wold
2. Mystics & Visionaries of Christianity - Raymond Moreland
3. What is Evil? Theological & Philosophical Investigations - Carl Gregg

Mondays 7:00-9:00

4. The Early Years of the Christian Enterprise - Charles Harrell
5. Creation Care - Climate Justice - Mike Koob

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00

6. God in Process: Introduction to Process Theology - Shannon E. Sullivan
7. The Jewish Context of the Christian Bible - Jordan Hersh

For more information about the school or to obtain registration forms, visit our web site at www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or contact Charlotte Pasquerette at 240-490-5657.

2020 Lenten Study

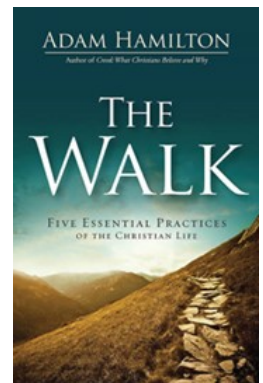
Calvary Church will be providing weekly a church-wide study each Wednesday evening during the Lenten season starting on Wednesday, March 4. This year, our Lenten Study will focus on five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God.

Jesus called disciples with a simple invitation: "Come, follow me." Those who wish to follow Jesus Christ today may not follow the footsteps of Jesus in the sand and dusty road, but we can follow him by taking up the spiritual practices and "holy habits" that he observed and commended to others.

Join us this Lent as we draw on the recent work of Adam Hamilton a popular author and lead pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Hamilton is the author of *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*.

We'll discover five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. In each chapter, Hamilton's engaging teaching style will help us explore one of these practices its New Testament foundation, and its potential effect on our personal lives and our lives together as the church.

There will be a meal provided each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and a program that runs from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Watch the church website and worship announcements for more details.



Coffee Host Needed in 2020:

We all enjoy our coffee and donuts and social time that follow early church. Please consider volunteering for one or two Sundays a year as a host. Host are needed for the following dates: April 19, June 14, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 15, December 20, and 27. The task is simple and you can make lots of people happy. Call the church office at 301-662-1464 or send an email to office@calvaryumc.org if interested.

Update on Financial Health

We began 2019 with a budget that would maintain our ministries and facilities at roughly 2018 levels. We soon recognized that we would need to reduce our spending. When some staff left Calvary for other positions, the Staff Parish Relations Committee reassigned duties to other members of the staff saving \$21,000. An additional \$14,000 was saved in operating expenses. However, we ended the year with insufficient funds to pay our conference apportionments in full. We recognize that this hampers the ministry of the wider church and we leave a part of our financial obligations unpaid. This cannot continue.

In December, the Church Council passed a budget of \$697,500 for 2020. This budget balances income and expenses and is 12% smaller than the budget set for 2019. Our intention is to pay our apportionments in full. We will start the year paying at a reduced rate with the hope that we will be able to make additional payments before the year is over.

This 2020 Operating Budget breaks down as follows:

Ministry of the Word (Ordained clergy)	34.4%
Lay Personnel	33.1%
Care of God's House	17.5%
Conference apportionments	6.0%
Program Ministries	4.5%
Administration and Technology	4.4%

Challenges help to remind us of what is important. These challenges also present opportunities for us as a congregation to increase our resourcefulness and stewardship. We will work harder on building our membership and ministries that will attract young families. The church council will review our implementation of the vision plan and how our organization is aligned to fulfill it. While we know that some of these decisions will not be easy, we remain committed to a vibrant future for the church.

Over many generations, the people of this congregation have overcome many challenges by remaining steadfast in our faith and in our commitment to making disciples for Jesus Christ. As we walk forward together, let us find our strength in Him and in the example our predecessors set before us.

Stewardship

Our God blesses each and every one of us as his adopted children. Heard often, this is a God Promise that is accepted but sometimes misunderstood. God blesses us not because we are good, he does not bless us because we do good deeds, he does not bless us because we pray a lot, sing loudly (as Wesley said Lustily) or have perfect attendance in Sunday worship; God blesses us because he loves us. He cares for our well-being, materially, physically and spiritually. God's grace and mercy are so abundant that he willingly gives blessings – even to those who are reprobate sinners, including you and me.

Look at Abram (Abraham), a man living in Ur, who does not know who speaks to him. Abram was a Gentile who did good deeds, he cared for the poor and provided for his family, he protected them. So God spoke to Abram. He was called to gather what he had and go to a land foreign to him and far from what was comfortable and secure.

God promised Abram in Genesis 12: 2-3: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will *bless* you and make your name great, so that you will be a *blessing*. I will *bless* those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in all the families of the earth shall be *blessed*." (Emphasis added) Abram was blessed so that he could be a blessing to others. All Abram needed to do was to accept by faith the word of God, to obey his call and to follow where led. We too are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. All that we have gained, earned from our labor, saved by means of sound stewardship, are blessings from God. All with which we are blessed, is available to be used as a blessing to others thru our own acts of grace and mercy in the image of God's actions to all of us.



Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Opportunities

Please consider joining us on Sunday February 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the John Wesley room to learn about the mission opportunities for this year. We will be sharing photos and answering questions about previous trips as well as providing information on our local projects and the two VIM trips that are being planned for 2020. Now is the time to learn more about this unique way to grow your faith and expand your service. All skill levels are welcome. We have selected destinations with wide range of opportunities. If you are unable to attend on the 9th but interesting in learning more, please let us know.

And on the morning of February 1st this open, welcoming group is going to be making subs for our annual fundraiser. Consider coming that morning to get to know us better and help out.

Spreading God's love,

Mission team leaders for 2020,

Bruce and Helen Sheppard and Dave and Pat Herber.



Weather related Closings

In the event of inclement weather that might require closing the church building or canceling activities, the church will post a notice on the church website (www.calvaryumc.org) and Facebook page. You can also call the church number directly for a recorded message (301-662-1464). A decision will be made by the Senior Pastor and posted by 6:30 AM. If there are no cancellations posted, that means that the church will be following its ordinary sched-

ule. Members and guests of the church are always encouraged to use their own best judgment regarding their personal safety.

Generally, if Frederick County Public Schools are closed, the church will also be closed. On Saturdays and Sundays, the church will be closed if the City of Frederick or Frederick County is under a snow emergency plan. If in doubt, check the church website, Facebook page or call 301-662-1464.

Organ Campaign Update

The active phase of the Renew and Rejoice organ capital campaign concluded on November 12. We are now into the “Fulfillment” Phase of the campaign. As of January 15, we have raised \$935,486 in commitments and have received \$309,153 of that amount so far. This is a great accomplishment and represents many givers who believe in the project and want to see our music and worship life continue to be a source of inspiration and renewal for all who come to this place.

In this quieter phase of the campaign, work will continue in two main ways. First, we have established a “Campaign Fulfillment Team” that will oversee the collection of contributions and seek out additional funds through grants and new contributors over the two next years. This team will also oversee how the funds collected will be invested and managed until they are put to use. A second group, to be called the “Organ Building Committee” will begin contacting potential builders to establish plans around the actual organ design. We will need to have some various plans in place that will allow us to maintain the current music program and bridge us over to the construction of the new instrument.

The Board of Trustees has several projects planned for this Winter and Spring

The Trustees have signed a contract for several projects that will be taking place in both the Education and Main Buildings. These include:

- Fixing the exterior lights in the rear parking lot as well as in the front area facing on-to North Bentz Street
- Hanging the stain glass art in the window of the John Wesley Room
- Upgrading the light switches for the sanctuary
- Installing a dropped ceiling and new lighting for classrooms on the 2nd floor of the Education Building

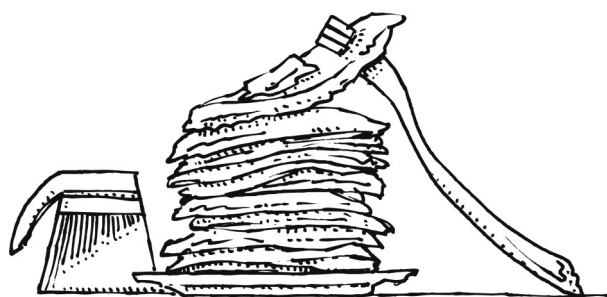
There will be more extensive work done in the Library to turn it into more of a classroom and conference room. The Memorial Room on the second floor of the Main Building will also be renovated to make it brighter and more aesthetically pleasing. These are projects that have been considered and discussed for several years. The work is expected to begin sometime in February. These projects are being funded from two sources. We are fortunate to receive a substantial grant from the State of Maryland because we have a school in a building that needs upgrading and improvements. Approximately \$22,000 will come from this source. The remaining expenses for these projects, about \$43,000, will come from the interest accumulated from the Calvary Trust Fund.

Children's Church is Now Available at Both Services!

We are delighted to be able to offer this special ministry during both of our Sunday morning worship services. For those that may be unfamiliar with Calvary's Children's Church program, here is a description:



At Calvary, we are proud to do Children's Church just a little bit different. Children in Kindergarten – 3rd Grade are invited to attend Children's Church in our Chapel, after our Children's Message. In the Chapel, we share a story related to the sermon being preached in "big church" and teach children different elements of traditional worship. After we've discussed the sermon, we have plenty of quiet activities the kids can work on while they listen to the rest of the church service together. We've discovered that children love being a part of worship. Providing this opportunity through Children's Church helps them to learn about worship in a fun way and prepares them to worship in "big church" with their family. For Children that choose to stay in our main worship through the whole service, Children's Bulletins are available at our Children's Resource Center right outside of the sanctuary, where you can also find coloring books, pads of paper, and crayons."



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner

Wesleyan Circle Meeting

Tuesday, February 18

12:00 p.m.

At Jane Sower's home

Tuesday, February 25 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Youth Fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip

Come enjoy a fabulous pancake dinner and support our youth missions!

February Birthdays: **1**, Zachary Patterson, **2**, Daniel Long, B. O'Hara, Michael Pfister, Carmen Vega, **3**, John Harper, David Herber, Betsy MacMullen, Tristen Palmer, **4**, Richard Alsmeyer, Maurlea Long, Christopher Moyer, Thea Ruff, Thomas Winkler, **5**, Doris Felton, Katie Kahan, Steve Mood, Amelia Whitmarsh, **6**, Emily Capano, Jayden Durstine, Joh Slovikosky, Tommy Stokes, **7**, Katherine Crum, Heidi Sweet, **8**, Pauline Baker, William Schmersahl, **9**, Gary Coffman, Kimberly Remsberg, **10**, Aaron Harrington, Ralph Lopez, Susan Poole, Paul Quigley, Alison Radcliffe, Sandy Sengstack, Katie Stone, **11**, Amelia Irving, Maryjane McClement, **12**, Wanda Bulkowski-Larsen, Abigail Proudfoot, Linda Sheridan, **13**, Grace Carter, William Davy, **14**, Ashlynd Adam, Nancy Crum, Susan Miller, Dylan Riffle, **15**, Gerald Palmer, Isabelle Wilde, Ramona Yanike, **16**, Jeff Stone, **17**, Payton Forsythe, Thomas Ruffner, Shannon Whitmarsh, **18**, Terry Fisher, **19**, Cal Calcagni, Patricia Grimes, Janie Hahn, Josie Manger, Bradley Proudfoot, **20**, Susan Burall, Jennie Davy, Edwin Kinsey, Lois Pacheco, Andrew Wilde, **21**, John Farner, Pat Herber, Katelyn Irving, Patricia Kellam, **22**, Joshua Herber, Alyxandra Hoover, **23**, Elliana Boston, Roy Schwarzenberg, Adam Stone, **24**, Luke Witmer, **25**, Jean Flory, **26**, Addison Benton, Anna Belle Childers, Janet Cilne, Peter Duthoy, Penny Reading, Kiersten Yuhas, **27**, Chase Leber, **28**, Armani Gough, Vic Rohrback, Lydia Souders, Wanda Weddle.

February Anniversaries

Ronald and Nancy McLaughlin	Feb. 5	David and Juanita Pard	Feb.14
Adam and Diana Nazari	Feb. 13	Jack and Grace Heller	Feb. 16
Brad and Beth Condon	Feb. 14	Kevena and Kelli Fox	Feb. 24
Michael and Nancy Leftwich	Feb. 14		

Every Week At Calvary

Every Sunday

8:30am—Worship & Children's Church
9:45am—Sunday School for all ages
11:00am—Worship
12:30pm—Children's Choir
5:30-7:30pm—UMYF (Youth Fellowship)

Every Wednesday

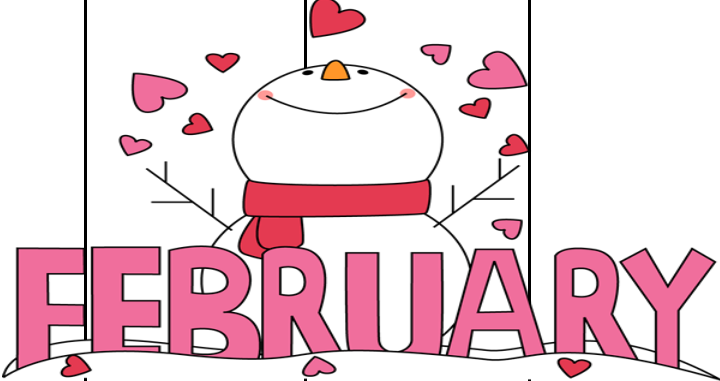
6:30pm—Men's Bible Study
7:00pm—Open Prayer

Every Tuesday

10:00am—Pastor's Bible Study
6:00pm—Gentle Yoga—Parlor
6:30pm—Dinner Theology
6:30pm—Joyful Noise Hand Bells
7:30pm—Sanctuary Choir

February Youth Schedule

February 2	No Youth Group	
February 9	Youth Group	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
February 16	Youth Group	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
February 23	Youth Group	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9;30 WRS Bell Peal 10:00 Shawl Ministry
Wheelbarrow2	3	4 11:15 UMW Ex. Comm. 2:30 Comm. Team	5 12:30 Calvary Blood Drive	6	7	8 8:00 UMM Breakfast
9 12:30 VBS Planning in the Activities Room 6:30 VIM in the John Wesley Room	10 6:45 Worship	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 12:00 Wesley- an Circle at Jane Sowers 1:00 Staff Meeting	19 1:00 Miriam's Circle in the John Wesley Room	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 12:00 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

Calvary United Methodist Church
131 W. Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-662-1464

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
FREDERICK, MD 21701
PERMIT No. 52

Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.



UMM Breakfast
Saturday, February 8
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

<u>Table of Contents.....</u>	
“Did God Speak to Me?”.....1-2	Stewardship.....9
Worship Schedule.....3	VIM/Weather.....10
Thank You.....4	Organ/Trustee’s.....11
Calvary Weekday School.....5	Children’s Church/Strove Tue.....12
Frederick School of Religion.....6	February Birthday/Ann.....13
Lenten Study.....7	Every Week.....14
Finance Update.....8	February Calendar.....15