

the Messenger

† October 2021

I'm back!

By the time this newsletter gets to you, you may have already seen me back in the pulpit, in the parish hall or somewhere else in Frederick. I'd like to share a bit about what I did and what I learned from the time that I was away this summer.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have a sabbatical break. I was tired and worn down from all the work and worry that I was carrying. I felt that I needed to pull back a bit to gain some perspective on my 33 years of pastoral ministry and what I hoped to be doing going forward. Sometimes when the computer or cell phone stops working as it should, the best thing to do is unplug or turn off the device and then let it reboot. I needed a chance to reboot and reset.

I had several goals for my time away. Here are a couple of the discoveries that came out of my recent experience:



1. I set out to hike a portion of the Long Trail in Vermont, a 272-mile trail that goes from the southern border of Vermont to the northern border. At one point, I thought about doing the entire trail which typically takes about 30 days to accomplish. Then I realized that I didn't want to spend an entire month sleeping on the ground and eating dehydrated food, so I shortened my plan. I hiked on my own and I decided I'd go until I decided I was done. I reached that point after ten days and 100 miles.

The Long Trail is not as well known or well-traveled as the Appalachian Trail. It's a trail with lots of steep elevation changes up and down. Much of the trail is thick mud and even though you travel along the ridge line of the Green Mountains, rarely do you get a break in the trees that allows for a nice view.

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I'd wake each morning, pack my gear and hike for most of the day, taking only short breaks now and then for a snack or a meal or to catch my breath. Much of the time I was on the trail, my focus was on where I hoped to get to that day, or maybe just getting through that next mile. Sometimes, all I really could think about was that next blaze on the tree that marked the trail. I met some people along the trail and had some wonderful conversations with total strangers. Along those miles, I learned to be more present in the moment and let go of other things. It was a great experience and I'm glad I did it, but it was tougher than I expected, both mentally and physically. Part of what I take away from this experience is a desire to keep myself in better physical shape through exercise. I also think I gained a bit of mental toughness for getting through challenging circumstances.

2. I got to worship in some other churches, both online and in person. It was great to see the ways in which people connected with each other and with God. It was refreshing to worship without being the leader and to worship along with my wife Wanda. I enjoyed hearing other preachers and the music that was offered. I took some notes about things we might do at Calvary Church, and I also made a few mental notes about how it feels to step into a place and community when it's new to you and you are the stranger. I hope that we can continue to work on welcoming guests and new people into the church and foster meaningful relationships with people across the congregation. But more important than this, I simply enjoyed the chance to worship with others in various settings, both near and far away. It restored in me a sense of connection with the larger body of Christ.

One Sunday, we went to worship at the National Cathedral in Washington. While we were sitting there, I looked around and noticed others around us and was reminded of many people I've known over the years, a favorite seminary professor, my uncle, a couple that showed great kindness to Wanda and I when we were first married. Of course, those people were not at that worship service that day, but they became present to me in my



heart and imagination as we worshipped together. It was a wonderful experience of “the communion of saints” and the “great cloud of witnesses” that we speak of as followers of Jesus Christ.

I am glad to be back with you here at Calvary Church. Sometimes just going away for a time helps you appreciate what you have back home. I found that to be the case. I am grateful for the people here and the work of ministry we get to do together. My plan is to keep the lessons I've learned with me going forward and to find ways to continue to explore and grow and learn.

Grace and peace, Pastor Steve

October Worship

After a summer with both in person and online worship, we are planning to offer one service that will be available simultaneously both in the sanctuary and livestreaming on social media. We have a few issues to work out, but this change will allow both those who are present in the building and those who are worshipping at home to have the same experience on Sunday morning. This means that each new worship will premier online at 10:00 A.M. each Sunday but will also be available at other times throughout the week.

New Sermon Series for October: Born to Trouble (Lessons from the Book of Job)

The human condition seems rife with difficulty from birth to death. What word can we bring to those who know the depth of this experience? Looking at the story of a righteous and faithful man who suffers, we will consider those deep questions at the heart of human experience. Join us for our worship series “Born to Trouble.”

Oct. 3	Job 1:1 and 2:1-10 Mark 10:2-16 Title: To and Fro on the Earth (first in series)
Oct. 10	Job 23:1-9 and 16-17 Mark 10:17-31 Title: Bitter Complaints (second in series)
Oct. 17	Job 38:1-7 Mark 10:35-45 Title: Out of the Whirlwind (third in series)
Oct 24	Job 42:1-6 and 10-17 Mark 10:46-52 Title: Now My Eye Sees (fourth in series)
Oct. 31	Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146:1-10 Mark 12:28-34

A Change in Music Ministry

In August, an announcement was made that Joche Wilmot would not be returning to his position at Calvary UMC as organist and director of music ministries. This news has been a source of sadness and disappointment to all who have enjoyed and benefited from Joche's talent and leadership over the time he has been with the congregation. We have all been greatly blessed by his exceptional talent. I enjoyed working with Joche in the time that I have been at Calvary Church. I do want to offer a few words of further clarification about his departure.

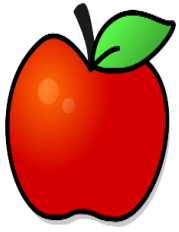
From the beginning of the time that the pandemic started, Pastor Shannon and I worked closely with Joche to provide worship opportunities and programming to the congregation. When the building was closed, Joche continued to provide guidance and assistance finding music to use with our virtual worship services, combing through video recordings and YouTube videos. Then he added the mid-week devotionals that provide a meditation and reflection on various pieces of sacred music. We worked with him to see if we could find some ways for him to provide music while still feeling safe from infection. The hope was that the dangers would subside, and we could go back to the way things were --or something resembling what they were. With the rise of cases again this summer, Joche has not felt that he could return and so, regretfully, he decided to resign.

The Staff Parish Relations has accepted his resignation, although they put it off several months hoping that conditions would change sufficiently for Joche to change his mind and withdraw his resignation. He told me and the committee that he did not wish to have any farewell event held at the church to mark this transition and we have respected that wish. Individuals in the church can reach out to him to wish him well and offer their appreciation for his service these last two decades. I will miss working with him.

The SPRC has reviewed the position and begun a nation-wide search for a new organist and director of music. We hope that the whole congregation will join in prayer that we find the right person to lead the music ministry going forward.

-Pastor Steve





Greetings from Calvary Weekday School!

In September we welcomed 64 preschool families to our school and finished up our 10 virtual Parent Orientations. We held virtual orientations since at this time we are unable to have parents in the building but we found the virtual option allowed for more flexibility for staff and families, especially the night of the hurricane!

The Procure App we purchased for families to complete the temperature and symptoms check has been very helpful. Our families have been wonderful with following all the current guidelines and with keeping their child home if they present any of the Covid symptoms. If there is a concern, the school calls the Health Department who then provides guidance for each individual situation. It is a team effort and I appreciate everyone's support and vigilance in order to help keep our staff, students, and families healthy.

Our biggest challenge this year is keeping up with all the cleaning of the materials used by students each day. We have hired a new cleaning company, All Clean, and they are doing an amazing job with keeping our facility clean. We are looking for volunteers to assist with cleaning some of the materials in our classrooms. Thanks to Fred Schumacher and the Board of Trustees, the sink in the basement kitchen is fixed and set up to be our cleaning station. If anyone is interested in being part of our cleaning crew, please call the school 301-662-6783 or email me director@calvaryweekdayschool.com.

Stay Well-

Patty Lockard, Director

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Steve is pleased to announce the re-start of the Tuesday morning study he leads beginning on Tuesday, October 5 at 10:00 A.M. in the church library/conference room. The study will use a series of videos produced by Rob Bell, the bestselling author of *Love Wins* and *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*. Each short video is designed to get you thinking and talking about what our faith in Jesus Christ means in how we live our lives right now. The class is open to everyone, and we always have room at the table for one more to sit in.

Dear Calvary Family,

I want to thank you for your tremendous outpouring of kindness you have extended to our family. The cards with all the thoughts and memories of Bruce are so heart-warming. He truly meant so much to so many. The gifts of your time, flowers, and wonderful foods that appeared at our home are so appreciated. Most of all, are your continued prayers. When we can't pray – it's so comforting to know someone else has taken that place for us. Life will be different, but I know that our loving God is beside me. Like the prayer on Sunday said: 'God will bring life out of destruction, hope out of despair and growth out of difficulty'. All things can and will be accomplished through Christ our Lord.

Thank you, Helen, Amy, and Becky

Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday in the Church Office at 9am. We would love our 6th-12th graders to join us for music, games, and Bible study.

Youth Group Schedule

October 3 - Youth Group

Oct 10- Youth Group

October 17 Crop Walk, pizza party, and games

Oct 24 Pumpkin carving and s'mores night

October 31 Halloween, no Youth Group.

In lieu of walking in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on October 16th. we will be raising funds.

All Youth in our community are welcome to join us for activities. Please don't hesitate to reach out to calvaryyouth@calvaryumc.org with any questions.



CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

Join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9am in the Education Building. Our program uses Bible Buddies and Bible Points from our much-loved VBS program. We require temperature checks and masks for all students. Contact Christy Mossburg for more information at Christy@calvaryumc.org.

Stewardship

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matt 22:37) He added the second greatest commandment is what we refer to as the “Golden Rule”. From God’s perspective, we are to give God our body and soul in entirety and to be generous of ourselves to others. To do this in our earthly lives is an example to others who need God in their spiritual and material lives. Seeing a Christian life lived fully is an example to others and a draw to Christ.

A disciple steward’s life should be an example to the world; certainly it is an example and exalter to our brothers and sisters in faith. If we know a person is good and doing good deeds for others, we want to be like them. We ourselves want to be Christ like. We tend to shun those activities that are toxic to our faith life and corrupting in our lives. How we view God’s abundant gifts gives us pause in how we manage our stewardship and wish to be generous with our possessions. Are you holding closed fisted attitudes and acts reflective of pride, greed, covertness, and are one hundred-eight degrees from what God wants us to be as a member of his kingdom?

We have reached the time of Calvary’s annual fiscal planning. It is the once in the year when we emphasize our gifting to God through our offerings to his church. While we practice faithful stewardship throughout the year, this is a good time to ask God to help us plan and commit anew our personal commitment. Pray about and meditate upon the acts of generosity by sacrificial giving, the widow gave her last three coins, Proportional giving is giving back to God as you recognize the gifts given to you in your faith life. The tithe came from God’s calling to the Israelites in their sacrifices – it was much more than the tenth of their possessions.

The Israelites of the Old Testament had more than one required tithe of the crops and livestock. First, one-tenth of their wealth was given to support the Levites and priest, this group had no means to support themselves. Second, another tithe of the remainder. This was set aside to be taken to the Temple in Jerusalem to support its facility repair needs and outreach to the community. A third tithe of the remainder, was called the “charity tithe” for the needs of Levites, strangers (aliens), the fatherless, and widows. (Deut 26:12; 14:28-29) Also, there is noted in the Old Testament an occasion of “thank offerings”.

This brings us to a principle of faith demonstrated in Scripture: we are examples to other Christians by our leadership and generous giving as we make our pledges, and by our systematic giving to the church and gifts to the Communion and Missional offerings. Thus meeting the needs of the poor.

This is a good way to consider your faith creed. I live to be a servant by giving all I can to God through the church. I give in humility and in fear and awe of who God is and what he offers to me. I give back to God from the blessings he has given me.

Membership to Discipleship: Semantics or Transformational Change?

If the purpose of the Christian church is to make disciples of Jesus for transformation of the world (Mathew 28:16-20), we need to re-think how we are organized and why we do what we do as a church. It was with such mission in mind that Calvary engaged a few years ago in strategic planning for its path forward in the greater Frederick community. Central to the mission envisioned for Calvary is the concept of Christian discipleship.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus and how, if at all, is such status different from simply being a church member? In his book *From Members To Disciples* (2007, Abingdon Press), the Rev. Michael Foss invites our attention to the Book of Acts as a model for the transformation of the church in today's world. In so doing he exhorts us to move in our church focus from that of a Membership Model (where emphasis is placed upon getting more members to join the church and an inward focus of its activities) to a Discipleship Model (where the emphasis is on inviting, equipping, and sending forth into the community disciples of Christ). To Rev. Foss, this change is more than one of semantics. Rather, he contends, *"The expectations of disciples are clarified and simplified: to be in a living relationship with Jesus Christ, to meet him in worship and personal practices of the faith, and to be in a community of living witnesses to his life-giving presence in our world."* (op. cit., p. 5)

This summer, with the departure of our former associate pastor, the Rev. Shannon Sullivan, our Staff-Parish Relations Committee established for approval a part-time Director of Discipleship position at Calvary, now filled by Jacki Stranathan, a recent non-ordained graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary. For Jacki to be effective in her position, however, she needs our help. For, after all, it is we the members of Calvary who are being called to discipleship in Jesus.

On Sunday, October 10, immediately following our worship service, there will be an opportunity to meet with Jacki over a cup of coffee in Parish Hall, to explore with her ideas about what discipleship ministry might look like at Calvary and current or possibly new opportunities for each us to become more engaged as disciples of Jesus through our relationship with Calvary.

Paul D. Nelson

Church & Society Ministry

NOTICE

On Friday, October 1st Waltz Plumbing will be installing the new boiler into Calvary's basement. This will involve a crane and a flatbed. NOW once installed Waltz will be on site for approximately one month connecting the boiler and getting the required inspections. Waltz anticipates having this work completed by November, but until that time there will be no heat in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall.

Hurricane and other Disaster Relief

The various wildfires in the West, Hurricane Ida and the earthquake in Haiti have displaced many persons from their homes, caused damage to many homes and businesses and brought death to many individuals and families. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides training, relief supplies, case management and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. When you make a donation to UMCOR, 100% of your donation goes to provide assistance. You can give to UMCOR by making a donation to Calvary United Methodist Church designated UMCOR or "disaster relief" or by going online to <https://umcmmission.org/>

CROP Walk October 17 we will be meeting at Calvary UMC at 1:00 p.m. Walk is to begin at 1:30 p.m. Prepare to walk 3 miles for those who are hungry. Please see Jacki Stranathan, Director of Discipleship for sponsor sheets. If you are unable to walk, you can always donate to CROP Walk.

The Least of These Ministry is a feeding ministry that shares food and the love of Jesus to 13 Bateys. January 15-22, 2022 there is an opportunity to join this mission team to the Dominican Republic. Mission meeting will be Sunday, October 24 at-

October Anniversaries

Rob & Audra Chewning	October 1	
Brain & Rebecca Forsythe	October 9	Stephen & Stefanie Harris October 18
John & Jennifer Esler	October 16	Paul & Cyd Maubert October 20
Art & Carol Fennington	October 17	Bob & Kay Jacobs October 28
Paul & Christy Quigley	October 17	Mike & Melissa Gaeta October 31

Let's Celebrate

The Wesleyan Circle is happy to announce their 80th anniversary. Calvary women met in September 1941, to organize a women's group for working ladies. They were known as THE WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD. This active group of ladies persists today, now know as the Wesleyan Circle of the United Methodist Women. Two of our early members are still with us— Barbara Burke and Anne Mossburg. We will be celebrating on Tuesday, October 19, at noon at the Dutch's Daughter Restaurant. Come join us to celebrate. Please contact Betsy Bryant at 301-662-1032, or Jean Shaff at 301-663-8582.

We hope to see you there!!

October Birthdays

- 1, Terre Rhoderick
- 2, Emily Carnochan(100), Erica Shipley, Bethany Webster
- 3, Julian Pearce, Patricia Pettingall
- 4, Bob Cannon, David Carter, Ann Crum, JoAn Ehlers, Gloria Orrison
- 5, Allison Chapman, Carol Fennington, Megan Reilly, Carol Stockhausen
- 6, Isam Ballenger
- 7, Stuart Austin, Timothy Caudill, Laken Daugherty, Kay Jacobs
- 8, Margaret Burkett
- 9, Jennifer Aud, David Colby
- 10, Ellen Ahr, Grace Heller, Jean Oxley
- 11, Buck Isaacs (100), Jacob Leftwich, Cameron Rokisky
- 12, Brandy Adam, Nancy East, Reagan Kinsey, Ginger Ward
- 13, Larry Johnson, Charlotte Miller
- 14, Kelley Cardy, Grace Mayer, Christopher Miller
- 15, Sarah Austin, Donna Loeb, Ian Vega
- 16, Andrew Keirn, Elizabeth Putman, Adell Remsberg, Deni Remsberg
- 17, Kayleigh Adam, Tom Stokes
- 18, Andrew Crum, Georgia Riggelman
- 19, Barbara Burke, Kevin Davies, Jonah Miller
- 20, Courtney Keirn, Melinda Keirn
- 21, Betsy Bryant, Taylor Rox, Carla Martz, Ryan Mills
- 22, Thomas Mills, Edward Milum
- 23, Scott Engler, Lynn Schumacher
- 24, Nancy McLaughlin
- 25, Joan Cooley
- 28, Angela Mayer, Samantha Shipley
- 29, Bruce Caruthers, Marla Rowley, Barbara Stone
- 30, Christine Bowersox, Rachel Gray, Caroline Sunderman



Bruce Caruthers will be celebrating his
95th birthday on October 29th!!

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10 am WRS Ringers
3 Wheelbarrow 9 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Youth Group	4 6:30 pm Organ Comm. 6:30 pm Taste and See Book Study	5 10 am Pastor's Bible Study 11:15 am UMW Ex. Comm.	6 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm Open Prayer	7 6: pm AGAPE	8	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Concert 5:30 pm Youth	11 6:30 pm Taste and See Book Study	12 10 am Pastor's Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm Open Prayer	14 6 pm AGAPE	15	16
17 9am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 1 pm CROP Walk	18 6:30 pm Taste and See Book Study	19 10 am Pastor's Bible Study 1:30 pm Wesleyan Circle	20 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Open Prayer	21 6 pm AGAPE	22	23
24 9 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Youth	25 6:30 pm Taste and See Book Study BWC Conference	26 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study BWC Conference	27 2pm Miriam's Circle 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm Open Prayer BWC Conference	28 6 pm AGAPE	29	30
31 9am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Youth						

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

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CALVARY COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES 2021-2022 SEASON

Fiona Thompson, cellist

**principal cellist with the
Harrisburg PA Symphony**

Sunday, October 10, 2021, 3 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of music by French composers for cello and piano, including Debussy, Saint-Seans, Brevall and more.

Free and Open to the Public

Ms. Thompson is making a special appearance at Calvary's 10 a.m. worship service on October 10. She will perform "In Christ Alone," accompanied by Joyce Summers.