

October & November, 2016



CALVARYConnections

The Pastors Pen BY REV. RICK TYSON

Beloved,

I have enjoyed the privilege of serving among you now for four months, and getting to know many of you and experiencing Calvary as a worshipper and fellow sojourner. Thank you again for making Janice and me feel so warmly welcomed. She has returned to Virginia to resume teaching middle-schoolers.

To keep you well-informed of the work of the elders, Pastor Jon sends you monthly summaries from both our stated business meetings and our additional "vision" meetings focused explicitly on our transition. Let me give you more details about how we are progressing, especially in light of our soon-to-be-formed pastor search committee. But first, here is a reminder from Jon's letter to you in May explaining the purpose of an intentional interim:

We are entering into an intentional interim period, the primary purposes of which are at least threefold: 1. To pray together with patience and perseverance for the Lord's guidance concerning what He may be calling us to as a Body; 2. To thoughtfully reflect on where we are, as a congregation – in our strengths, our weakness, and our overall implementation of our stated vision; and 3. To make an informed and careful decision about what we need and want in the next Senior Pastor, that it might be clear to us whom the Lord will choose to lead us into the next stage of our life and ministry together.

To accomplish those goals your elders agreed to the following methodology:

- Phase 1 Data Gathering, Issues related to Calvary's, stability, identity, resources, strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats to her mission
- Phase 2 Data Analysis
- Phase 3 Clarify vision
- Phase 4 Produce church profile and pastor profile
- Phase 5 Communicate results of Phase 4 to search committee

The first three phases enable the elders to give a search committee meaningful insight into the ethos and vision of the church, so they can search for a pastor who embraces the vision and embodies the core values of our church.

We are ready to start phases 2 and 3. I recently handed the elders my preliminary assessment of issues to address, including present challenges and possible areas for improvement, such as communication, shepherding, organizational structure and outreach. I began my report with the following:

Calvary has a rich history and stands as a testament to God's super abounding grace. She has been faithful for eighty years, under the leadership of competent, wise and winsome shepherds, to her original calling to stand on the inerrant word of God, to make disciples, and to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. She has never lacked for rich, Biblical teaching. Calvary is a loving congregation of earnest believers who know Jesus loves and rules his church as its Head and King. God has endowed her with a lovely campus and highly enviable facilities. The congregation enjoys a strong sense of family. She longs to know the word of God, to worship, and to serve one another.

Up until now the elders have collected data from their own perceptions and from their knowledge of you, their flock. Now you have the opportunity to give the elders feedback and insights into Calvary's ministry and mission, using both the questionnaire and the town hall meetings being scheduled with the elders. Based on your input, prayer, and thoughtful analysis, the elders will examine our vision and unique opportunities for ministries within and outside the body. We will then present that to you and to the pastor search committee.

In the meantime, let's continue to follow Jon's encouragement from his letter to you, in May:

*In terms of what you can do during this period, four things in particular:
Love one another deeply with the love of Jesus Christ.
Continue to reach out to your neighbors with the love of Jesus in word and in deed.
Offer thoughtful feedback to Pastor Mike, me, and your Session throughout this period, and do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have about this process. (Please know that your Session and Staff greatly desire to have full transparency and good communication with you at all times, and especially so now!)
Pray! Pray in private. Pray with your families in your homes. Pray when you are with one another. Pray in your small groups. Pray. I am convinced that no matter what, the one thing that God is calling us to at Calvary, above all else, is to be a people of prayer.*

The Word of God by Pastor Mike Sharrett

Why do we make such a big deal about the Bible at Calvary? We use it in worship, preach and teach it, want it to frame our worldviews, long to see it spread through the community and to the ends of the earth, and gather in small groups to study it.

Why have we been a Bible-believing church for eighty years? Because the word of God is powerful. It ministers grace and truth to us (1 Peter 5:12). Jesus meets us in his word and transforms us (2 Corinthians 3:18). He sanctifies us by the truth of the word (John 17:17). By it we grow in respect to salvation-hence we long for it like new born babes (1 Peter 2:2). In it we know the truth which sets us free (John 8:32) and have confirmed his precious promises (2 Peter 1:4). It is healing refreshment to our bodies (Proverbs 3:8). By it we come to believe the gospel (Romans 10:17) and discern the deepest functioning of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12). It exposes the devil's lies (Ephesians 6:17) and equips us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If there is any doubt about its value, Psalms 19 and 119 put it all to rest.

Paul gives thanks in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 that when the saints there received his preaching... "you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers." He seems to be echoing Isaiah 55:11: "...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I send it."

So we ought to ask, exactly what work does the word perform in us who believe?

Because the word: As
such, it is a:

- Confronts our thinking
 sword
- Challenges our assumptions
 compass
- Corrects our biased, self-made worldview
 medicine

THE ENCOURAGER'S CORNER by Kathy Walker

We're baaaaack! Yes, Encourager gatherings have started up again. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Educational Building. In September we had another set of hands to help fill the gift bags for those we wanted to uplift. We were very happy to welcome Lisa Gruber.

Plans are shaping up for a special project. Not surprising, we have a Thanksgiving theme for our November bags. We give thanks to the Lord for guiding us in this ministry. How blessed it is to serve others in the name of Jesus. Come with your caring heart to our gatherings on November 8. Catch the spirit of encouraging. Each time we get together we are thankful that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus, because we know He is our Great Encourager. II Corinthians 1:4 "God comforts, encourages and consoles me in every trouble. He enables me to console others who need comfort."

***Continued**

- Convinces us of God's perspective on
 reality light
- Contrasts true vs. false humanity
 blueprint
- Convicts of sin
 mirror
- Communicates God in
 Christ
- Calls us to faith
 siren
- Comforts us with the gospel
 honey
- Confirms God's promises
 seal
- Controls our wills, goals, actions
 yoke
- Consumes us because Christ is all or nothing
 life

There is nothing on earth that can do these things, though some "false prophets" try. This is the word we all must soak our hearts and minds in, strive to honor and obey, and faithfully impart to one another and our neighbors.

Women in the Word: A Workshop

October 28 & 28, 2016 at Calvary PCA

An author of several Bible study guides commented, "We're so used to fast food that we think we should be able to drive by the Scriptures periodically and pick up some easily digestible truths that someone else has wrapped up neatly for us."

In other words, just feed us quick answers! Women in the Word says, NO! The Word is worth the work! God's revelation of Himself to us and for us is worth digging into and hearing it speak.

October 28 and 29, 2016 was our eleventh year! **Libbie Groves, our plenary Bible teacher, spoke on "Change the Lens, Change the View: How Concentric Contexts Help Us Understand and Apply Scripture."**

Libbie is a seminary professor of Hebrew as well as an author and Biblical dramatist.

Since our first *Workshop* in 2006, women have come from nearly 150 different congregations! In 2015, over a hundred women participated. And over 120 women are anticipated You'll be in familiar surroundings since Women in the Word meets at Calvary!

In this world of "fast food," God's Word is indeed worth the work – work that is undergirded by worship!

THE MEN'S RETREAT by Bob Hertzog

The Men gathered together at the Inn of Hope at Hawk Mountain, the weekend of October 14 - 16th. Although we only had 11 men, it did include Pastors Mike, Jon & Rick. The weather and the food were spectacular and we actually saw many hawks. The Fellowship was very special.

Hawk Mountain is just West of Allentown and the Inn was originally built in 1832. We hope that many more of you will come next year.

Thursday Women's Bible Study

We are off to a good start and we are greatly enjoying Matthew's account of Jesus life on earth. If you are available for the Thursday (9:45) class plan to join us. Just show up or if you have any questions give Mary Heerdt a call 610-324-5439.

2016 Safe Church Policy and Procedure Updates

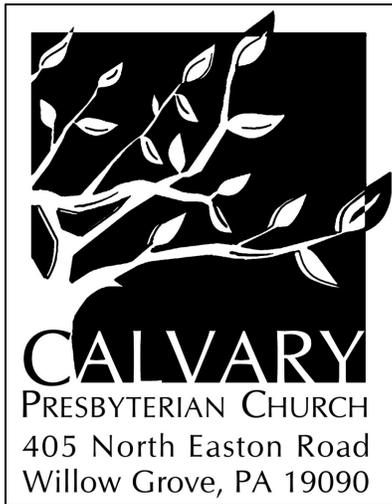
Child Protection Policy and procedure updates for 2016 are now officially in place! All volunteers working with children in any capacity at Calvary should attend one of two training dates: Saturday, November 12th (9:00 – 11:00am) or Sunday, November 13th (12:30 – 2:30pm). We will not be covering ALL details of all policies! These trainings are specifically to provide updates to disciplinary procedures, information on mandated reporting and steps we must take if there is a need to report abuse, and to answer any questions you may have. Lunch will be provided for those attending the Sunday session, and a light breakfast will be provided during the Saturday morning session. We'd love to receive any specific volunteer-related questions you may have before these trainings, to be sure we cover any issues of confusion and provide clarity in all areas of childcare. We want to be sure you are fully equipped to serve the children God has placed in our care, and address any outstanding concerns. Thank you so much for serving in this way! Please RSVP to Yvonne Bonomo at cpcsafechurch@gmail.com with the training date you will attend, along with any questions you may have.

See you there!

Yvonne Bonomo (for the Safe Church Committee)

Goodbye to the Asps!

Stu, Mandy, Aleeyah, and Asia will have all located to Maryland this past month. The family will be sorely missed and we hope the Holy Spirit will direct their way to a new Christ-centered church. God Bless Them!



CALVARY
connections
 215-659-0554
 215-659-4684 (fax)
 www.calvary-wg.org

Sunday School
 9:30 a.m.
Worship
 11:00 a.m.

October & November, 2016 Birthdays

Mark Rickers	10/01
Silas Bonomo	10/02
Stewart Greenleaf	10/04
Rick Tyson	10/05
Sue Moore	10/07
April Stainback	10/07
Nancy MacDougall	10/16
Judy Hertzog	10/23
Bruce Prentice	10/23
Bert Anthony	10/24
Rick Brown	10/25
Sam Logan	10/26
Bill Klenk	10/27
Shirley Cruise	10/28
Connie Breyer	11/02
Ruth Obrecht	11/02
Henry Taggart	11/03
Jana Seaman	11/05
Ron Nave	11/09
Jessica Cooter	11/11
Susan Fitzwater	11/18
Tim Barton	11/21
Ellie Gustafsson	11/21
Hazel Lynch	11/21
Susie McKay	11/21
Ashley Landis	11/23
Glenn McPherson	11/24
Malia McKay	11/25
Chris Cooter	11/29
Bonnie Klenk	11/29
Troy Laigaie	11/29

STAFF

Interim Pastor
 Rev. Mike Sharrett
Associate Pastor
 Rev. Jon Bonomo
Youth Director
 Darren Bacon

Music Director
 Contact Jon Bonomo
Office Manager
 Bob Hertzog
Treasurer
 Dave Fish

Our Vision

*"Filled to overflowing by the love of Christ,
 we will build a healthy church, committing
 the resources God has given us to advance
 Christ's kingdom, flooding Willow Grove and
 the surrounding communities with the gospel
 of grace and reconciliation."*