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 Office hours: T-F 9-3

CALENDAR

July

- 1 12:30 pm Hot dog picnic following the service
- 8 12:20 pm Congregational meeting and vote regarding Associate Pastor candidate, Angel Gomez
- 12:40ish VBS Staff Lunch and Meeting
- 4:30 pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting
- 10 3:00—8:00 pm Blood Drive
- 5:30 pm Session Meeting
- 21 10:00 am Set up for VBS
- 23-27 9:30—12:30 Vacation Bible School
- 28 10:00 am Clean up from VBS

August

- No Sunday School
- Worship Service at 10:00 am
- 14 5:30 pm Session Meeting
- 29 Sept/Oct Calvary Connections articles due to Becky in the office, bmckay@calvary-wg.org

CHILDREN'S JUBILEE FUND, cont.

was tough to learn; there was a lot of fighting, and the teachers were not able to teach. In 6th grade they would teach 4th grade (work), because some of the kids didn't comprehend 6th grade education. When I got here [Cornerstone], I learned better."

Tracey has influenced Aniyah's life through Math class, Christian Concepts, and the "Daughters of Destiny" elective. Aniyah said that Tracey "cares about her students a lot, and she knows what she's teaching." Aniyah believes that the "students in this school all have potential and with their scholarship they can excel. With the scholarship, they can focus on learning."

Tracey beams with pride when speaking about Aniyah. "Aniyah is a very smart young lady. When Aniyah started, she was ranked 7th or 8th in her class, and now she is number 2 academically. She has great work ethic and a phenomenal support base at home being in a Christian household. What I say here, she's going to get at home."

Tracey's investment is an illustration of Cornerstone's impact over time. Cornerstone has shared God's presence with Southwest Philadelphia for over thirty years. The investment that this school has had upon generations of families is evident in Tracey and her family's lives.

Thank you for your partnership with Children's Jubilee Fund. Thank you for being a part of the Christian community and rallying around students like Tracey's grandchildren and Aniyah. The trajectories of generations of students will be changed through your dedication.

Blessings,
 Drew C Skinner, Executive Director
 Andrea Cohen, Associate Director for Advancement
 Children's Jubilee Fund

JULY/AUGUST 2018



CALVARYConnections

The Pastor's Pen by Rev. Jon Bonomo

Prayer as Communion

Eugene Peterson has said that "Prayers are tools not for doing or getting, but for being and becoming." That quote really captures what is at the heart of what I want to stress in our upcoming sermon series on Prayer, which will cover six weeks.

I believe that one of the reasons many of us struggle to pray is because we tend to see prayer primarily as a means to an end – something that I do in order to get something out of it. If this is how we see prayer, then we will always struggle to pray. Why? Because prayer simply doesn't "work" in ways that are usually quantifiable in material "cause and effect" terms.

To be sure, there are times when the Lord answers our prayers in very clear and profound ways. I had one experience like this around a year ago. I was in a season of life where I was having a really hard time sleeping. One night was particularly difficult. I remember looking at the clock, which said 4:04 am, and then praying specifically, "Lord, please, just give me two hours of sleep." That's the last thing I remember. The next thing I knew, my eyes opened, I rolled over, looked at the clock, and it said, 6:04 am, on the dot! This was not a coincidence, but a very clear, specific, and unmistakable answer to my prayer!

But, that isn't always how it works, is it? Many of you have no doubt been praying for something for many years, and perhaps you are growing discouraged. Perhaps you've even grown discouraged with prayer altogether, because you feel that you have been disappointed time and time again. How can we be people who, as Paul exhorts us, "Pray without ceasing," when we are so easily discouraged?

To be clear, I am emphatically NOT an expert on prayer. But I can say this: When it comes to prayer, the most important thing for us to understand is that prayer is not simply something we do in order to get something in return. Prayer is most fundamentally, communion with God, which is itself the very best thing we "get," in prayer.

In other words, we pray because in prayer we get to draw near to the God who has drawn near to us. We pray, because in prayer we get to speak to the God who has spoken to us. We pray, because in prayer we get to speak to a heavenly Father who loves us and cares for us. We pray, because Jesus died in order to open up to us the way to the Throne of Grace! There is truly no greater privilege in all the world than this! And there is also no higher calling in all the world than this – that we be people of prayer.

When this is how you see prayer, and you truly believe it with all your heart, you simply cannot BUT pray. So, how do we get this engrained into our hearts and minds, so that we will live it out in our lives? This is what we will begin to consider together on Sunday, July 8. It is my prayer that as we enter into this series on prayer the Lord will use it in the life of our church body, and in each of our individual lives, to shape us into people who not only pray, but who delight to pray.

Here is the schedule for the series:

July

- 8: Prayer 1 [Principles] – Prayer as Return from Exile
- 15: Prayer 2 [Principles] – Prayer as Priestly Ministry
- 22: Prayer 3 [Priorities] – The Kingdom Focus of Prayer
- 29: Prayer 4 [Practice] – Prayer and the Word (Praying the Psalms)

August

- 19: Prayer 5 [Practice] – Prayer as Spiritual Warfare
- 26: Prayer 6 [Practice] – Praying as the Body

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

ENCOURAGERS' CORNER by Kathy Walker

Before our summer break, we enjoyed working together on two special projects. In May we gave the Homework Club children and their families a bag filled with items for a spaghetti dinner – just in time for Mother's Day. We set aside time in June to put together gift bags as a thank you to the Sunday School teachers.

Although we do not meet in July and August, we are still mindful of opportunities the Lord may show us to encourage others with a word, card or gift bag. Please tell us of someone you know whom we could uplift in this way.

Encouraging doesn't take a "vacation", but you can take it with you on your vacation – a smile, a thank you, a helping hand. Perhaps you might like to use the cards in the baskets we placed on the Welcome Table and the table in the atrium of the Educational Building.

Catch the spirit of encouragement!

Romans 15:2 "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

WOMEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

In the month of July, the Women's Sunday school class is continuing their study on Choosing Gratitude, by Nancy Lee Demoss. You are welcome to pop in and out whenever you are in town! We will be taking August off, and starting up with a new study in the fall. Contact the facilitator, Heather Wilson, scrapnsew@gmail.com, with questions.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Morning Bible Study is taking a break for the summer, but we're looking forward to resuming in September, and we'd love to have you join us if you're available. Feel free to invite a friend! We will meet **each Thursday morning at 9:45 – 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning September 13. This year we will be studying Hosea and 2 Corinthians.**

As usual, there will be a class for children ages 2-4 years old, as well as a nursery for infants.

If you have not registered in prior years for this study, please fill out the yellow registration form found on the Welcome Table, and place it in the offering plate, or call Mary Heerdt at 610-324-5439.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: A Workshop

"The Good News About God's Judgment"
with Bible teacher, Kim Monroe

October 12-13, 2018 at Calvary Presbyterian Church
Registration is open now!
www.womeninthewordworkshop.org
More information can be found on the Welcome Table.

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THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for the cards, meals, good wishes and prayers during my recovery time from knee replacement surgery. I feel so blessed to be part of such a loving and caring church family.

Many thanks,

Ellen Gustafson

NEW RECYCLE BINS

We have three new blue recycle bins around the campus. One is in the kitchen, one is in the Sanctuary coat room, and one is in the office copy room. The following items may be put in these containers:

- Clean, dry, paper or cardboard without wax liners
- **Clean, dry and empty** aluminum food and beverage containers, iron or steel cans, aerosol cans, and rigid container plastics #1-7, including narrow neck containers and tubs, but excluding foam and film plastics.
- Glass may be included with specific approval of company
- **Any other material not set forth above**, including tissue or paper that had been in contact with food, **is unacceptable**

JOB OPENING

Ministry opportunity at the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Administrative Offices in Willow Grove

Controller: Seeking applicant with accounting degree or equivalent experience to direct and manage a centralized accounting system. This is a part-time position and includes financial management, reporting, payroll, and human resource management. If interested, please contact David Haney [david.haney@opc.org or (215) 284-1993] for additional information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL by Becky McKay

The King Is Coming!
July 23-27; 9:30 am—12:30 pm
For children age 4 yrs - completed 6th grade

I'm thankful to say that, three weeks out from VBS, plans are really beginning to take shape and come together. If you haven't registered your kids yet, please do that on our website, or [here](#). Also, there are **invitations** for you to give to family and friends on the VBS table.

Have you noticed the VBS Table in the Sanctuary yet? It will serve as our communication center. If you need to sign up for something, pick up a prayer card, or ask a question, you can do that at the table. Also stop by if you would like to see some fun pictures I found from the last time we did "The King Is Coming!" in 2009. All those little kids have grown up!

A new announcement I have is that we are planning **an Olympic Games event for the Wednesday evening of VBS week, July 25**. All the VBS kids and their families, along with all of Calvary, including kids and adults who can't attend VBS during the day, are all invited! This will give us an opportunity to mingle with and build relationships with the VBS families, and our church family can enjoy a fun, intergenerational night out together with our guests. If you'd like to help out, you may sign up at the VBS table. I hope you'll consider coming out for the fun on July 25th.

We still need a few more volunteers; needs include:
Before VBS:

- Prayer Partners: Cards are on the VBS Table
- Set up: **Sat, July 21 starting at 10:00 am; Church-wide help needed!**

During VBS Week:

- Guides: lead a group of children from activity to activity, assisting as needed.
- Craft leader and assistants: lead the craft projects for the five age groups each day
- Preschool Volunteers, 1 or up to all 5 days to care for children of volunteers

Wed Evening Olympic Games (July 25 at 6:45 pm)

- Help as needed, sign up is on the VBS Table

After VBS:

- **Clean up: Sat., July 28 beginning at 10:00 am:** put the building back to normal!

Contact Becky McKay, bmckay@calvary-wg.org, with questions or to volunteer.

CHILDREN'S JUBILEE FUND

Dear Calvary Presbyterian Church,

Tracey Harris has invested her life at a Children's Jubilee Fund School. She has witnessed firsthand the generational impact of Jubilee schools. In the 1990s she was introduced to Christian schools through a summer program for her children in Southwest Philadelphia. Tracey experienced the story and power of Jesus Christ there and her new faith motivated her to find a Christian school for her children. She found Cornerstone Christian Academy, a Jubilee school.

While her children attended Cornerstone, she worked at the school. Her children flourished both academically and spiritually while at Cornerstone. Shortly after they graduated, Tracey left Cornerstone to work as a corporate accountant. After a few years, her daughter, who chose to teach at Cornerstone after college, informed Tracey that there was a math teaching position opening at Cornerstone. Tracey thought the pay would be too low, but her daughter, having been raised in a Christian home and school, asked, "Mom, did you pray about it?" Tracey agreed to pray, and she soon sensed God calling her to teach at Cornerstone, though she would only commit to teaching for one year.

After that year, Cornerstone's principal, Deborah Lee, told Tracey that she filled the math teacher position that was to be vacated at the end of Tracey's single year commitment. Tracey inquired as to whom Deborah had found. Deborah remarked, "You, Tracey." Tracey reminded Deborah of her one-year commitment, but Deborah persisted. Just like Tracey's daughter had suggested, Deborah asked, "Did you pray about it?" Prayer is central to Tracey's life and is ingrained in the fabric of Cornerstone. Tracey prayed and again she sensed God was moving her into long-term ministry—at the school that trained and disciplined her own children.

Eight years later, still at Cornerstone, Tracey is teaching Math, Christian Concepts, and leads a course titled, "Daughters of Destiny," a discipleship group for middle school girls. After being bullied at a local school, Tracey's grandchildren now attend Cornerstone as well. Tracey has even offered to house her grandchildren during the week so they can attend Cornerstone. She believes in Cornerstone.

God is also using Tracey's life and work, not only for her own family, but also in the life of a new 7th grade student, Aniyah. Having transferred from a dangerous neighborhood school in Baltimore, Aniya's life has been impacted in just one year by Tracey's investment and the Christ-centered culture at Cornerstone. Aniyah said that at her previous school, "in each class it was 30-40 kids. It (continued on p. 4)