

# FROM OUR HILL

Vol. 156 | No.36 | January 8, 2010

Pastor  
Peter van Eys

Minister of Discipleship  
Libby Baxter

Music Ministry  
Deborah Graham

Children's Ministry  
Stephanie Baxter Dunn

Youth Ministry  
Kris Lott

**CALVARY**  
United Methodist Church  
3701 Hillsboro Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
615.297-7562  
www.calvaryumc.com

**Calvary Cares Line: 385-1600**  
For an update on the joys and concerns of the church, please call the above Calvary Cares Line number.

**January 10, 2010**

8:30 a.m.

CalvaryConnection in the Chapel

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

6:30 p.m.

Service of Prayer & Holy Communion  
in the Chapel

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Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## Unity, Community, Tennessee, and the Baptism of the Lord



I rang in the New Year in Seattle, Washington. Actually that is a bit of an overstatement since I was in bed before midnight. However, by virtue of time zone changes, my wife actually watched the ball drop in Times Square as 2009 became 2010 in the United States. It was only 9:00 pm in Seattle and she typically falls asleep at 9:15 pm.

Patti and I, as well as her sister Tari and husband Jim, visited her sister Nanci and family. That household includes three children 8, 6, and 2 as well as a puppy which arrived on Christmas Day. It was a wonderful time together, though each occasion with the Seattle

family reminds us of what we miss 2,435 miles away.

One afternoon we trekked downtown to take the Underground Seattle Tour. It proved to be a popular tourist destination and began with all 100+ of us seated in a room for a verbal welcome, introduction, and brief history lesson of the city. The gentleman speaking to us asked where people were from, saying that he wanted to see who had traveled the farthest. Besides many States, I heard someone say Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, England, and Australia. However, when our group said Tennessee, he responded, "So you guys have come the farthest culturally." I was sorry I hadn't worn shoes. Later when we were divided into four groups for the walking parts of the tour, our guide (different fellow) introduced himself and said he was from Idaho, "the Tennessee of the West." (Maybe they can eat their road kill too).

I took a couple of books with me, as well as a box of thank-you notes, for the flights. I am a little behind in both areas of intent, but went with the reading. Having a long standing reputation for Christmas thank you notes with Happy Groundhog's Day greetings, I decided not to get ahead of myself. One of the books I read was Wendell Berry's *The Way of Ignorance and Other Essays*. I found his thoughts on what it means to be a coherent community of special interest. The Church, Calvary UMC, exists as a covenant community giving witness to the presence of Christ in the world. Wendell Berry affirms that a coherent community is an excellent purpose, but then goes on to say "I am afraid, that none of us lives in one, and that none of us knows where to find one - unless it might be one of the older Amish communities." (pg 78)

A pivotal concern for our congregation is the matter of unity; the experiences of the past year exposed how fragile it can be, if it ever existed at all. I find the lament expressed by Calvary members an appropriate response. A coherent community is an excellent purpose, and would do wonders for creating a sense of unity.

A church has particular challenges seeking coherence or unity. We are by definition sinners seeking life shaping, life saving grace. Yet we do not all move at the same pace or enter the spiritual life continuum at the same point. More detrimental, our sinfulness, and the very awareness of our sinfulness, tends to make us self-serving even in relation to a love that never ends and will not let us go. We must be gentle with each other.

Wendell Berry adds to the challenge the realities of our mobile and market oriented world. He champions the re-creation of a local perspective and argues for an alternate value system. "Members of a community cohere on their recognized need for one another, a need that is in many ways practical but never utilitarian." Furthermore, "If it is to cohere, a community cannot agree to the loss of any of its members...a community must remember its history and obligations...persons, places, and things are not

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## CHURCH AT A GLANCE

Please consider donating flowers for the Sanctuary for Sundays! If you would like to take part in this ministry, please contact Betsy in the office, or Deb Barcus.

If you would like to electronically receive the weekly church paper (*From Our Hill*), please email your request to kris@calvaryumc.com and you will be added to the list.

### Free Computer Desk Available

We have a large, lightly used computer desk for anyone who will come and pick it up. It has a retractable keyboard tray, drawers, a cupboard, is 59 inches wide, 29 deep, 28 high. If you're interested, give us a ring at 297-4090. ~ George and Margie Koehler

## CHURCH FAMILY

We extend our love and sympathy to **Anita Nunnally** and her family in the death of her mother, Beatrice Zile

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, January 10, 2010

8:15 a.m. CalvaryConnection  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
6:00 p.m. UMYF  
6:30 p.m. Prayer & Holy Communion

### Monday, January 11

1:30 p.m. Adult Fitness  
2:30 p.m. Prayer Time  
5:30 p.m. Jr. High Basketball  
5:30 p.m. Staff Parish  
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Girls Basketball  
7:45 p.m. Sr. High Basketball Scrimmage

### Tuesday, January 12

8:00 a.m. Covenant Group  
4:00 p.m. Tutoring @ Cottage Cove  
6:00 p.m. Sr. High Boys Basketball Practice  
6:00 p.m. YCS Board Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Children's Council

### Wednesday, January 13

1:30 p.m. Adult Fitness  
5:30 p.m. WNL  
6:15 p.m. Praise Team  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### Friday, January 15

YCS Closed  
5:00 p.m. Room in the Inn  
Youth Ski Trip -There is no basketball or UMYF due to the ski trip.

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*interchangeable...that is why a house for sale is not a home."* (pg 79)

This Sunday we will reflect on the Baptism of the Lord, and are blessed to have children being baptized in the 10:30 service. That is a good place for us to start if, like me, you would commit to creating a coherent and unified community at Calvary in 2010. The world as we know it is in desperate need for such communities; but it won't be easy and will change us dramatically. Shaping such a covenant life together would move us culturally further from the life this world offers than, say, Washington State is from Tennessee (the Idaho of the East).

Peter van Eys, Senior Pastor

## Wednesday Nite Live Series

*"Looking at Literature Through the Eyes of Faith"*

On Wednesday, January 13, we will start a new series on Wednesday night called "Looking at Literature Through the Eyes of Faith." What literature, sacred or secular, has shaped your life, especially your life of faith? You will have the opportunity to hear Calvary laity and clergy talk about this subject as they witness to how literature has shaped their lives. Be sure to show up each week to find out who the presenter(s) will be!

On January 13, the menu for the WNL meal will be Roast Beef, Carrots, Roasted Potatoes, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Make your reservation by calling the church at 297-7562 by Monday, January 11 with your reservation.

## The Book Circle

The Book Circle will meet January 26, at 9:30 AM in room 309. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME FOR THIS MONTH.

Kathry Smith will review *THE LOST ART OF GRATITUDE*, sixth novel in Alexander McCall Smith's series featuring Scottish philosopher Isabel Dalhousie. Set in Edinburgh, the story unfolds with the intrigue of blackmail, arson, accusations of plagiarism, and other enticing events to charm and entertain the reader. Everyone is welcome!

## Needlework Arts Group

The Needlework Art Groups (NAGS) will meet Tuesday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m. We create prayer shawls, blankets for Meharry newborns, hats, and scarves for the homeless. Please join us. For more information, call Joan Redman at 665-1867.

## Adult Fellowship to meet at Glendale UMC

Glendale United Methodist Church members have attended Calvary's Adult Fellowship programs several times in 2009, and now we are going to return the favor. On Tuesday, January 26th, Calvary's Adult Fellowship and Glendale's Adult Fellowship will have a joint meeting at Glendale in their Fellowship Hall. The program will be at 11:00 a.m., and lunch will follow the program.

The guest speaker on January 26 will be the Rev. Dr. Joyce Samuels from the Pastoral Center for Healing. Using insights from the field of "positive psychology," Dr. Samuels will talk about what constitutes true "happiness" and how we can achieve it. Please note that this program is on the fourth Tuesday of January, not on our customary fourth Thursday. Glendale UMC is located at 900 Glendale Lane, Nashville, TN 37204. Contact Libby Baxter at Calvary at 297-7562 with your reservation by Friday, Jan. 22.

# Ministry with Calvary's Children: Extravagant Generosity in Practice

Every time an old calendar is taken down and a new calendar is put in its place, we are given the opportunity to reflect on what was and look forward with hopes for what is to come. In the few months that I spent with Calvary in 2009, I experienced a great deal of generosity of time and gifts for ministry among Calvary's children's Sunday School teachers.

The Tennessee Conference has a special focus on Bishop Robert Schnase's book, "*Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations*". One of the practices listed by Bishop Schnase is extravagant generosity. Our children's Sunday School teachers have been committed to this on a weekly basis – participating in Christian education that is transformational by offering their time and gifts. Thank you to each of these teachers for their commitment and modeling this level of generosity for all of Calvary. If you see one of these teachers, remember to thank them for participating in such a transformational ministry with Calvary's children:

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Anne Parker          | Beth Wakefield        |
| Mary Myers           | Susan Birdwell        |
| Margaret Pond        | Cary Brimm            |
| Phyllis Vaughn       | Karin Smith           |
| April Bradley        | Julie Brown           |
| Jackie Dixon         | Helen Reed            |
| Jonathan & Lisa Cole | Rosemary Sanders      |
| Elizabeth Easterly   | Suzy & Harvey Murff   |
| Cathy Wind           | Jessica Bridges       |
| Claire & Drew Berg   | Bryan & Allison Pitts |
| Laura & Marty Faber  | Leslie Calvert        |
| Margaret Heart       | Brad & Sharon Greer   |
| Bitsy Ward           | Linda Doyal           |

Thanks also to the parents who have helped during our combined Sunday School classes. They have shown gratitude by serving.

## Enrollment time is here!

Enrollment packets can be picked up in the YCS office. New this year is a school age summer camp for children K-4th grade.

As you are enrolling, keep in mind that enrollment should be for five days, three days (M,W,F) or two days (T, Th). We will no longer be able to accommodate schedules other than those listed options. For the SCHOOL AGE summer camp one must enroll for five days but can pick which weeks you need care.

To enroll for either the summer and/or school year session, please complete and return the appropriate form with the non-refundable fee according to the following schedule:

January 2-15 for children currently enrolled.

January 16-20 for children and grandchildren of members of Calvary UMC and children and grandchildren of Calvary UMC staff and YCS staff. Preference will be given to families who have maintained their membership at Calvary for a minimum of one year.

January 21-26 for siblings of children currently enrolled or previously enrolled.

January 27-31 for all other children (from the waiting list).

Admission priority is based on the above listed enrollment dates and availability of space.

You will be notified of acceptance no later than March 1st. If you have any questions, please stop in and ask.



www.calvaryumc.com



3701 Hillsboro Pike  
Nashville, TN 37215

Calvary United Methodist Church

## Youth Auction / Luncheon - Sunday March 7 We NEED YOU!

Please help with the biggest youth missions fundraiser  
of the year

- Donate art or other such items to the auction that show-  
case your talents
- Contact your favorite restaurant or merchant. See if  
they will donate/or you can purchase a gift certificate to  
sell at the auction.
- Donate new items to sell at the auction.
- Classes or Individuals can sponsor a van for the trip for  
\$400 and/or a counselor for \$200.
- Purchase youth to work for you in three hour blocks.
- Make your reservations to attend the Luncheon and  
Auction on Sunday, March 7 following the 10:30 worship  
service.

Please contact Kris Lott at Calvary  
Martha Lott at 371-1751  
For Donations or Questions

## SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAMS!



Games for Saturday, January 9, 2010

| <u>Team</u>          | <u>Time</u> | <u>Where</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Girls                | 9:00        | West End UMC |
| Jr. High Boys        | 9:00        | Calvary UMC  |
| Sr. High Boys - Lott | 4:00        | Calvary UMC  |
| Sr. High Boys - Dunn | 3:00        | Calvary UMC  |

The schedules are also posted on the calendar of  
the church website.