

# FROM OUR HILL

Vol. 156 | No.42 | February 19, 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 Pike  
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.

### February 21, 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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Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

## God Said of Jesus: "Listen to Him!"



I think I just communicated. I spoke and the response seemed to me that she really heard and understood what I had said. How rare the moment! Tom Lehrer famously said, "If you can't communicate then the least you can do is shut-up." That advice brought laughter in the 1960's; it falls on deaf ears now. The flow of information, and what passes for conversation, is ubiquitous. Our deafness has become a survival instinct, more to do with filtering than hearing.

That is what makes occasions where real communication happens so special. As one who has answered what I believe to be a call into the ministry, communication between me and God is the central piece to how my life has unfolded. I still trust that I heard what I thought I heard, and that God and I are communicating. As one who is given regular opportunity to write, speak, and preach, whether I communicate is also integral to my life story. It can be tricky even when intentions are clear. The first time I asked Patti to marry me she responded with "don't ask me that now". Thankfully I tried again.

The Season of Lent involves an invitation by the Church to intentional focus on our spiritual lives; it was made last night in our Ash Wednesday Service. Scripturally we will follow Jesus on the road to Jerusalem and dare to hear the message God proclaimed through Christ Jesus. We might be comforted to realize that the communication between Jesus and the disciples (not to mention other original audiences) often failed at the point of the disciple's understanding. That however, does not excuse us from paying attention and truly listening. When real communication happens between God and an individual, it is a beautiful thing.

With regard to acts of devotion and acts of mercy, concrete disciplines of the spiritual life, there are several exercises to increase the chance of communication. Lent is a season for reclaiming these practices. We should pray more regularly, both to speak and listen to God. We should read scripture with a commitment to meditate silently on what we have just read so that God's Word might speak to us. We should be faithful to worship and gatherings of the body of Christ with expectation that the Holy Spirit will inform us through liturgy, music, and Christian fellowship. We should be so radical as to make time to disconnect ourselves from phones, texting, blogging, tweeting, etc., just to sit silently in order to recalibrate what we listen to in the constant flow of sound.

Among the comments my father made to me when I told him I thought I would seek ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church was something like this, "If you feel called to be a preacher, we will see if anyone feels called to listen to you." The truth is though, that even if both parts of that equation happen, it does not guarantee actual communication. I have been around life long enough to know that people tend to hear what they want to hear, and need to hear things more than once. Like, will you marry me Patti?

Which, brings me to what may be the most critical piece for genuine communication to take place; relationships. Here again the custom of the Church is a holy offering, for the Season of Lent was designed to bring those who had separated themselves from the Church back into the community of faith. Through repentance and forgiveness we are reconciled with God, and in position to extend peace and reconciliation between one another. In the midst of all the sound and information that flows in this world, those words shared and received, spoken and understood, are the most pure, the most beautiful, the most sublime. It is what God is trying to communicate through Jesus Christ.

Peter van Eys, Senior Pastor



## CHURCH AT A GLANCE

### Weekly Prayer Group, Time Change

The weekly time of prayer for the Calvary community's joys and concerns will be moved during the season of Lent. Instead of meeting at our usual time of 2:30pm on Mondays, we will meet at 12:15pm on Mondays, directly following Lenten Midday Prayer. We will move together upstairs from the Chapel to the Prayer Room.

## CHURCH FAMILY

We extend our love and sympathy to **Janet Cook** and her family in the death of Steve Cook.

We extend our love and sympathy to **Joanne Cole** and her family in the death of her uncle, Jack DeBerry.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, February 21, 2010

8:30 a.m. CalvaryConnection  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
3:00 p.m. K-2 Children's Choir  
3:45 p.m. 3-6 Children's Choir  
4:00 p.m. Youth Bells  
5:00 p.m. *The Awkward Season* Small Group  
5:00 p.m. Children's Snack Supper  
5:00 p.m. Youth Choir  
5:30 p.m. Children's Handbells  
6:00 p.m. UMYF  
6:15 p.m. Adult Handbells  
6:30 p.m. Prayer & Holy Communion

### Monday, February 22

12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service  
1:30 p.m. Adult Fitness  
6:30 p.m. Worship Committee

### Tuesday, February 23

8:00 a.m. Covenant Group  
10:00 a.m. Book Circle  
12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service  
4:00 p.m. Tutoring @ Cottage Cove  
6:00 p.m. Communications Committee  
7:00 p.m. Steering Committee

### Wednesday, February 24

12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service  
1:30 p.m. Adult Fitness  
5:30 p.m. WNL  
6:15 p.m. Praise Team  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### Thursday, February 25

11:00 a.m. Older Adult Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service

### Friday, February 26

12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service  
1:30 p.m. Adult Fitness  
5:00 p.m. Room in the Inn

## Children and Grief

This Sunday, Patti van Eys will lead a conversation about how to approach the grieving process with children. We will meet in the Logos classroom (the adult Sunday School classroom closest to the gym) during the Sunday School hour.

**PARENTS, SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, AND ANYONE ELSE IS MORE THAN WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.**

Please be with us!

Sunday, February 21, 2010

9:15am-10:15am

Contact Stephanie Dunn with questions at [stephanie@calvaryumc.com](mailto:stephanie@calvaryumc.com)

## Estonia Volunteers Needed

Are you being called to God's work with the street children of the Light-house Children's Center in Estonia this summer June 25-July 5? If you are interested or would like to explore what's involved, please come to an organizing meeting on Sunday, February 28 after the 10:30 service in the classroom next to Peter's office. Snack lunch will be provided. For more information in the meantime, contact Genna Mansperger at [gmkids@comcast.net](mailto:gmkids@comcast.net)

## Communications Committee

The newly formed Communications Committee is looking for members. If you are interested in learning more or have ideas on how to better enhance communications at Calvary, please contact Shirley Drescher ([shirley-drescher@yahoo.com](mailto:shirley-drescher@yahoo.com) or 615-376-2563).



**Sunday mornings:** 8:30 a.m. – Calvary Connection in the Chapel  
10:30 a.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

**Sunday evening:** 6:30 p.m. – Communion in the Chapel  
**Mondays** 12:15-12:45pm – Weekly Prayer for Community  
In the Prayer Room

**Wednesday evenings:** 6:15 p.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary  
*Note: Childcare will be provided throughout Lent for the 6:15 service.*

**Weekdays:** Noon to 12:15 -- Midday Prayers in the Chapel  
Monday through Friday -- February 17 – April 2

## Book Group

The Book Group will meet Tuesday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m. in room 309. Janet Bell will review *Enemies of the People* by Katie Marton. This book is the true story of the author's family during the communist reign of terror in Budapest. It details the imprisonment of her parents and the family's eventual move to America. Please join us.

## A Small Group Gathering in Lent: *The Awkward Season*

On Sunday, February 21, a six-session small group experience will begin at Calvary. The Reverend Pam Hawkins will lead this group through the Scriptures, prayers, and guided reflection on the season, using her new book, *The Awkward Season: Prayers for Lent*.

Each session will last from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. To sign up for this small group, contact Libby Baxter at 297-7562 or [libby@calvaryumc.com](mailto:libby@calvaryumc.com)

# George Koehler to Share *Life Among the Lutherans*

Join us at Adult Fellowship on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to hear our own resident Midwesterner, Rev. George Koehler, share with us from Garrison Keillor's new book, *Life Among the Lutherans*, a wonderful collection of stories about Pastor Ingqvist and his flock. In the book jacket, Keillor gives us a taste of what is to come in these humorous stories set in Lake Wobegon: "Here in the Midwest, we all have long memories of suffering and pain, because for one thing, winter is so long ... we were not brought up to experience pleasure. It doesn't register on us ... Sunlight makes us gloomy. We are not Mediterranean people. We're Lutheran people. Even the Catholics up here are Lutheran. And I don't like to generalize about Lutherans, but one thing that's true of every single last one of them without a single exception is that the low point of their year is their summer vacation." You'll have to join us next Thursday to find out more!



Lunch will follow the program at a cost of \$7.00 per person. To make your reservation, call the church at 297-7562 by Tuesday, Feb. 23. For more information or for questions, call Libby at the church or contact her at [libby@calvaryumc.com](mailto:libby@calvaryumc.com).

## The Time is Near

Participate in the Youth Auction/Luncheon March 7  
You can help the biggest youth missions fundraiser of the year. We NEED YOU!

- Contact your favorite restaurant or merchant and see if they will donate a gift certificate to sell at the auction. Or you can just purchase a gift certificate yourself and donate it to the cause.
- Classes or Individuals can sponsor a van for the trip for \$500 and/or a counselor for \$200
- Purchase youth to work for you in three hour blocks, Saturdays, March 27, April 10, and April 24
- Let us watch your children, while you have a Parents' Night Out on Fridays, March 26 and April 9
- Make your reservations to attend the Luncheon and Auction supporting Calvary Youth Missions on March 7 following the 10:30 worship service.

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

## Trip to Chaffin's Barn



On Thursday, March 25, the Older Adult Council will sponsor a trip to Chaffin's Barn to see "Frankly, My Dear." The cost of the brown bag matinee is \$19.00 per person. You will bring your own brown bag lunch, and the beverages will be supplied by Chaffin's. Lunch is at 11:00 a.m., and the play begins at noon.

"Frankly, My Dear" is hilarious ... and mostly true! It is 1939 and David O. Selznick has already begun filming "Gone With the Wind" but needs a new script. There is only one writer up to the task: the legendary Ben Hecht. The only problem is that Hecht has never read the book, and they have only one week to write. So, Selznick locks himself, Hecht, and the director Victor Flemming (on a short hiatus from "The Wizard of Oz") in his office to get the job done. If laughter feeds the soul, the antics which produce one of the classic movies of all time will ensure you'll "never go hungry again!"

We have twenty tickets reserved for the play, so get your reservation in early. The deadline for both reservations and payments is Thursday, February 25. Reservations cancelled before February 25 will receive a refund of your money; reservations cancelled after February 25 will not receive a refund. Call the church at 297-7562 to reserve your ticket, and come by the church before February 25 to make your payment and secure your ticket. If you have questions, call Libby Baxter at the church.

## Ecological Lenten Devotional

As we observe Ash Wednesday, we ponder questions of our human finitude, and consider taking on practices of fasting and new spiritual disciplines during the season of Lent. As we do so, we may be led to consider how our daily practices remind us of the literal dust, or soil, from which we come and to which we return.

For those interested in "greening" their prayer lives, I extend an invitation to you from the Vanderbilt Divinity Ecological Concerns student group to incorporate a weekly ecological Lenten devotional into your life of prayer and practice during Lent.

The devotional is online only (in hopes of being "friendly" to the Earth), in a blog format. You may find it at <http://vdseconcerns.wordpress.com>. It will be published each Sunday evening during Lent, with additional posts on Ash Wednesday and the special days of Holy Week, through Easter.

If you would like to receive a reminder email each time a new devotional is posted, please email [jessica@calvaryumc.com](mailto:jessica@calvaryumc.com). For the especially tech-savvy, there is a link to subscribe to an RSS feed.

The devotional includes the week's lectionary readings, an ecological reflection on the readings, and ways to deepen one's Christian spiritual practice and prayer during the weeks prior to Easter.

In the peace of an earthy Lent,

Jessica Bridges

www.calvaryumc.com



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Calvary United Methodist Church



## Basketball - Support our Sr. High Boys

The Senior High Boys Team will play tonight at Belmont UMC at 6:00. The team is in the final four of a thirty team league. Tonight, they play Granny White Community Church. This boys' team consist of Dylan Lott, Scott White, Andrew Phillips, Austin Woodside, and friends. The winner of our game will play in the championship on Monday, February 22 at 8:00 at Calvary.

## WNL ~ Worship in Lent

Join us for worship in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. during the Wednesday nights of Lent. Worship will be based on the themes in Adam Hamilton's book *24 Hours That Changed the World*. You are invited to experience fellowship around the table at the WNL meal at 5:30 p.m. prior to the worship service. The cost of the meal is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, and reservations are required by the Monday before each Wednesday night. Make your reservation by calling the church at 297-7562.

**February 24** "The Garden of Gethsemane" (Mark 14:26-52)

Worship Leaders: Jessica Bridges and Peter van Eys

Music: Tom Metcalfe and Elizabeth Baxter

WNL menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuits, Fruit Salad with Mixed Greens, Dessert

**March 3** "Condemned by the Righteous" (Mark 14:53, 55, 61-68, 70-72)

Worship Leaders: Peter van Eys and Stephanie Dunn

Music: Tom Metcalfe and Pam Rhett