

# FROM OUR HILL

Vol. 156 | No.45| March 12, 2010

Pastor  
Peter van Eys

Minister of Discipleship  
Libby Baxter

Music Ministry  
Deborah Graham

Children's Ministry  
Stephanie Baxter Dunn

Youth Ministry  
Kris Lott

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

## March 14, 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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Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## Living In Trust With God, Our Youth, and Our Neighbors



I had the opportunity to preach to a Men's group in a Davidson County Correctional facility last week. When the invitation came it seemed a good way to stretch myself, and timely for my desire to observe a Holy Lent. I was to speak to men who had entered a program aimed at lowering the recidivism rate; the stated purpose "to reconcile men to God, their families, and society". The Epistle reading for this Sunday, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, makes clear that we Christians are to be about the ministry of reconciliation.

For many years I was a regular visitor to a death row inmate, but it had been some time since I passed through the bars that lock up many Tennesseans. The room was full; I spoke for about 45 minutes, sharing my life and faith, and then opened it up for questions. I was most impacted by a gentleman who asked how anyone learns to trust.

Wow. That was quite a question and led to a good discussion. Trust has many dimensions at the heart of our life together in the church. When we live together in community as God has designed for us, we learn that reliance on the integrity and surety of another can be well founded. We trust one another. When we accept the good news God offers through Christ Jesus, we learn to live by a hope born of grace and mercy. We trust God.

Ultimately trust is a two way exchange. I am certainly grateful for the many relationships in my life grounded in mutual trust. However, there is also the matter of that which God has given in trust to me, to us. That leads me to express my gratitude to all the youth and youth leaders for designing and leading such a marvelous worship experience last Sunday. It was an amazing hour + (I wish it had been longer!) time of being brought into the presence of God. In beautiful and moving ways the service explored the meaning and power of traditions, reminding us of the inexpressible gift with which we have been entrusted in Christ Jesus and how that gift is shared through covenant life.

Youth Sunday, and the Lunch and Auction that follow the service, are Calvary traditions in and of themselves. How blessed we are! To be given a window into the world, into faith, through their eyes is an offering beyond measure; one for which we have intentionally provided a context to receive. I will state the obvious; Calvary is fortunate to have a growing and vibrant youth ministry. But it does not just happen; Youth Sunday reflected the years of faith formation and the years of fellowship formation Calvary provided these young people. The Church being the Church! Calvary faithful to God's trust! I give thanks to God for our youth ministry, youth leaders, and youth!

I have one more thing on my heart as I write; the case of death row inmate Gaile Owens. She is currently waiting for the Tennessee Supreme Court to set a date for her execution now that she has exhausted all appeals. I will state clearly that I oppose capital punishment. It does not make sense to me that we would want to teach people not to murder by killing someone, the risk of putting to death an innocent person is not worth taking, and most importantly, I believe it violates God's trust. As I study scripture, God made a very

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## CHURCH NEWS

**Wednesday Nite Live-** March 17- Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have a thirty minute prayer service on the theme of "peace," and members of the Ulster Project will be our guests. Worship leaders will be Peter van Eys and Libby Baxter. The WNL meal at 5:30 p.m. will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls and assorted pies. cost: \$7.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child. make your dinner reservation by tomorrow at noon (297-7562)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 14, 2010

9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday - Worship  
11:30 a.m. Estonia Camp Meeting  
3:00 p.m. K-2 Children's Choir  
3:45 p.m. 3-6 Children's Choir  
4:00 p.m. Youth Bells  
4:30 p.m. The Way of Blessedness  
5:00 p.m. *The Awkard 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, March 15

12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service  
1:30 p.m. Adult Fitness  
7:00 p.m. Open Gym

### Tuesday, March 16

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. Finance Committee

### Wednesday, March 17

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, March 18

12:00 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service

### Friday, March 19

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

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strong statement against capital punishment in the crucifixion of Jesus. His trial was a mockery, an innocent man was put to death, and his resurrection a victory of life over death.

There is also the matter of Gaile Owens' story. She was a battered wife who was convicted of hiring a hit man to kill her abusive husband. She never testified on her behalf because she did not want her children to hear details of the abuse she suffered, and agreed to a life sentence in exchange for pleading guilty. Recently a newspaper reviewed nine comparable cases from over the past 25 years and found that Ms. Owens is the only one serving a death sentence. Her story is one where trust broke down repeatedly.

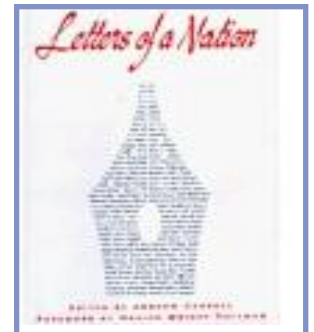
I have gone to the web-site [www.friendsofgaile.com](http://www.friendsofgaile.com) and signed a petition asking the Governor to commute her sentence to life in prison. I encourage you to visit the web-page and to prayerfully consider signing the petition too. And please contact me if you wish to discuss this; it would be a good Lenten discipline and exercise the trust we share in the body of Christ.

I moved through a spiritually charged week in which I was given witness to the consequences of trust broken and the holiness of trust kept. As I study the lessons for the Fourth Week in Lent, Paul's verse to the Church at Corinth keeps coming to mind: "we are ambassadors of Christ, since God is making his claim through us." (2 Cor. 5:20) Let us never weary of being faithful to the covenant we have made with God regarding our youth, nor to the ministry of reconciliation that calls us to restore trust in the wider community.

Peter van Eys, Senior Pastor

## Book Review

The Brook Group will meet Tuesday, March 28, at 10:00 am in room 309. Anne Gulley will review the book *Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters* edited by Andrew Carroll. The book contains nearly 200 letters covering more than 350 years of American history written by both powerful and ordinary persons. Please join us



## HOLY WEEK AT CALVARY

|                   |                 |                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 28th</b> | <b>8:30 am</b>  | <b>Palm Sunday Connection Service</b> in Chapel                                                            |
|                   | <b>10:30 am</b> | <b>Palm Sunday Traditional Service</b> in Sanctuary<br><i>Children Process with Palms in 10:30 Service</i> |
|                   | <b>6:30 pm</b>  | <b>Prayer and Communion Service</b> in Chapel                                                              |
| <b>April 1st</b>  | <b>7:00 pm</b>  | <b>Holy Thursday</b><br>Communion, Foot/hand washing, Taize Music, Rev. Vin Walkup, preaching              |
| <b>April 2nd</b>  | <b>7:00 pm</b>  | <b>Good Friday</b><br>Scripture, Drama, Liturgy, Music                                                     |
| <b>April 4th</b>  | <b>6:30 am</b>  | <b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> in Chapel                                                                    |
|                   | <b>7:00 am</b>  | Breakfast served in Christian Life Center (until 9:15 am)                                                  |
|                   | <b>8:30 am</b>  | <b>Easter Sunday Connection Service</b> in Sanctuary                                                       |
|                   | <b>10:30 am</b> | <b>Easter Sunday Traditional Service</b> in Sanctuary                                                      |
|                   | <b>6:30 pm</b>  | <b>Prayer and Communion Service</b> in Chapel                                                              |

# Lenten Food Drive for Barth Vernon UMC Food Pantry

Once again we have been asked to help our partner church, Barth Vernon UMC, stock the shelves of the West Nashville Food Bank. This ministry serves poor, elderly and disabled people in our own city and is run by volunteers from Barth Vernon who give out monthly food boxes containing meat and dairy products as well as the staple items we contribute.

**March 14- Spaghetti and/or spaghetti sauce**

**March 21- Tuna and/or Tuna Helper**

**March 28- Soup and/or crackers**

Bring items to the Master's Common before Sunday school or church service. Calvary members have been very supportive in past years and have made a very big difference in the lives of the less fortunate.



## Learn about Haiti from UM journalists who were there

All church members are invited to get a personal and up-close view of the devastation in Haiti from two United Methodist journalists who traveled there nine days after the January 12 earthquake.

United Methodist journalists Mike DuBose and Kathy Gilbert will be sharing their experiences and dramatic photographs during the Sunday School hour Palm Sunday, March 28, in Fellowship Hall. All Sunday School classed are invited to participate as well as church members who do not normally attend Sunday School. Note: the session will begin at 9:15, a bit earlier than the starting time for most classes.

Mike and Kathy spent 10 days in Haiti capturing images and filing stories for United Methodist News Service (UMNS). Mike has been the staff photojournalist for UMNS since 1995. Assignments have taken him to more than three-dozen countries and most of the 50 states. Previously he spent 10 years as a photographer at The Tennessean and the Knoxville News-Sentinel and was staff photographer for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville.

Kathy has been a news writer for UMNS since 2002, covering stories in several African countries, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan and throughout the United States. Previously she was a staff writer and editor for the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

To view some of the Haiti stories and photographs filed by Mike, Kathy and others, go to:

[http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.5719935/k.E27B/Earthquake\\_in\\_Haiti\\_The\\_Church\\_Responds.htm](http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.5719935/k.E27B/Earthquake_in_Haiti_The_Church_Responds.htm)

## Even Eagles Need a Push



**April 30 - May 2, 2010 - Beersheba Springs  
17th Annual Church Retreat  
Led by Rev. Vin Walkup  
Sign up forms located In Masters Common**

## Yard Sale

**CALVARY UNITED METHODIST  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
Your contributed items for the sale and your volunteer time the day of the sale and the preceding week will be needed. Watch for details.  
Money from the sale will support:  
• Habitat for Humanity  
• Lighthouse Children's Center, Tallinn, Estonia

## Please return overdue library books, resources

Entering nearly 4,000 books, videos, CDs, DVDs, cassettes and kits into the computer database for Calvary's library has been a priority for volunteers during the past two years. Attention is now being turned to recover books that are overdue or missing.

You can save the church time and money if you will return all overdue items. No fines will be levied as the library operates on the honor system.

Accessible any time the building is open, the main library on the first floor near the church offices and the children's library in the area used by the Young Children's School have many resources for study, spiritual growth, enrichment and entertainment.

"If your idea of church library is a dusty repository for old, outdated books, then you will be surprised," says volunteer librarian Charlotte McAnally. "Certainly we have the important classics related to Christianity and Methodism, but we also have a wide collection of new, up-to-date books and resources. Come see for yourself."

www.calvaryumc.com



Calvary United Methodist Church  
3701 Hillsboro Pike  
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# Calvary's Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 10**  
**3pm - 4pm**  
**Ages 2-4th Grade**

**Donations needed:**

Donations of filled, plastic eggs are needed. Please use wrapped candy, stickers, etc. to fill the eggs. (No chocolate, please.) Please fill the "under 3s" plastic eggs with non-edible goodies only. Place your egg donations in the container outside Stephanie's office.

**Thanks for your help!**

