

Calvin Clarion

Calvin Presbyterian Church

Summer 2011

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Editor – Lois Edwards

I would like to share with you some thoughts about prayer. I do this as one who feels like he still has so much to learn.

Prayer is first and foremost a way of living into our relationship with the Creator of the Universe. We speak of the things that matter to us, and we ask to grow in the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (see Galatians 5:22-23)

There is so much in this world (for good and for bad) that is beyond my control and your control. Yet, we are called as individuals and as a community to be part of God's dream / vision / purpose for creation. When we share the Lord's prayer together, we are asking to be part of God's community working for justice, healing and hope. What an amazing adventure!

Sometimes, prayer can become perfunctory. We say words of grace before a meal without really taking the time to be grateful. At the same time, a person can say the same words of blessing at each meal, and it is an expression of faith and trust every time.

A few weeks ago, I prayed during a children's time in worship while I kneeled, stood, walked, ran and danced. My message (beyond hoping for a smile for my silliness): "Prayer is meant for every moment in our life. All of our actions are meant to be invested with the mindfulness that God is near."

Some questions that I would ask myself and you are: When do you feel the closeness of God supporting or guiding you? Have you ever felt like Jesus when he cried: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When have you been creative for the sake of others, and that act has become a prayer? Have you ever been surprised by God answering a prayer?

I want to share a rendering of the Five Finger Prayer, which I read at one time. I took the prayer, and made it my own. I hope that it is supportive to you, and will inspire you in the prayers you create.

God's peace be with you!

Mark

THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER



Gracious God, bless us as we use the five finger prayer. We think of the **thumb of a hand**, which is nearest us. So, we pray for those who are closest to us. Family, friends, next door neighbours. Thank you for those who see us for who we are, and bring out the best in us. Help us in turn to provide good guidance and protection. Bless all those in the circle of our care.

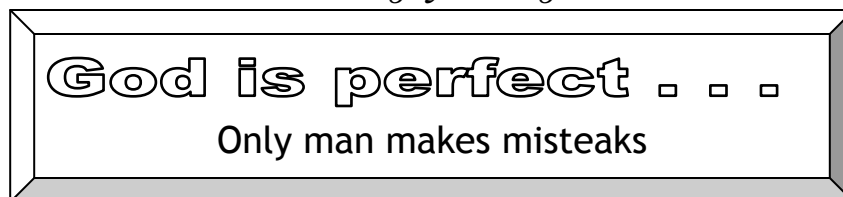
Breath of the Universe, our **pointing finger** connects us to those who teach, instruct and heal. We are grateful for all those who seek to point us in the right direction. In places like homes, schools, hospitals, and day care centres, you have raised up people who mentor and bring healing to others. Grant to these individuals the gifts of strength, patience and humility. Comfort them when they feel sorrowful. Bless their acts of kindness that those who are vulnerable may gain new strength.

Most Holy, the **tallest finger** can remind us of our leaders. We lift up all those who are called to positions of authority over others. Grant to them humble hearts, and the ability to listen with understanding and grace. We are mindful of our own Canadian politicians municipally, provincially and federally. Leadership is full of conflicting pressures and demands. Bless these women and men, who have been elected from the people and by the people. We pray for steps that will lead us to grow in our respect for one another.

Vigilant Watcher, the **fourth finger**, the ring finger, is also the weakest one. And we pray for those who are in trouble or in pain. We hold in our hearts those who are sick or injured, along with those preparing for operations or recovering. We give supplication for those who are in palliative care, and the loved ones who are standing by their side. We ask that our prayers will join with your healing love for all your dear people.

Finally, Merciful Judge, we think of the **little finger**, and ask that it may remind us to pray for ourselves. There are so many things we want, so many things we need. Help us to discern want from need, and to make healthy choices day by day. May we follow the golden rule: love your neighbour as yourself. Guide us in what eat and drink, in how we spend our time, and whom we seek to be our mentors that we may be loving children of God. Amen

A church sign from England. . .



PICNIC

The Annual picnic is planned for Sunday June 12

It will be held at the Church this year. There will be a potluck picnic lunch to start.

We have changed location from New Dundee Park - which has undergone changes with the removal of the baseball diamonds.

It is hoped to have children's games at the church and a baseball game in the park behind the school (across Westmount Road)



Minister's Study Leave and Holidays

Mark is taking study leave from Friday, June 24 to Thursday, June 30.

He will be joining with a Presbyterian group to learn about migrant worker's issues in the Niagara Falls area from June 24 to June 26.

He will then be going to Camp Kintail for Counsellor training.

Mark is taking holidays from

Friday, July 1 to Thursday July 14;

Monday August 1 to Sunday August 7;

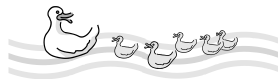
Monday August 21 to Sunday August 28.

The Rev. Jeff Smith leads worship June 26, July 3 and 10.

He will be available for Emergency Pastoral Care from June 24 to July 14.

The Rev. Bob Duncanson leads worship on August 7 and 28.

He will be available for Emergency Pastoral Care from August 1 to 7 and 21 to 28.



If we think about stained glass windows even for a moment, our first thought is what we see in a church. Stained glass as first used in cathedrals, was thought to signify Light, as the first act of God's creation, and was recognized as the purest manifestation of God's presence, as the stained glass windows only came to life when illuminated by the light. To medieval theologians, the vibrant holy images depicted in the windows were therefore brought to life by God's presence. Not many people were able to read or write in the Middle Ages. Stained glass windows told the stories of the Bible and of the Saints in pictures, and the guides, who were perhaps the monks themselves, would explain their content to the pilgrims who came to worship.

MUSIC NOTES



Summer will soon be upon us and the music program at Calvin is winding down for the season.

June 5 – communion

The choir is preparing a new anthem for this service.

June 12 – Praise Team

No, it's not the end of the month yet, but the Praise Team will be singing on our church picnic Sunday.

It is also Pentecost.

June 19 – Brass band

This will be the last Sunday for the choir to sing an anthem before taking holidays for the summer. David Knarr will be coming with several brass player friends of his to play the prelude and postlude as well as to accompany the choir and some of the hymns. It will be a great way to celebrate together.

June 26 – flute

I have invited Laura MacIsaac to play her flute this Sunday.

The summer supply line-up looks like this:

July 3 & 10 – Laura Hare

July 17 – Elizabeth Hackett

July 24 & 31 – Laura Hare

Aug. 7 – David Knarr

Aug. 14 – Laura Hare

Aug. 21 & 28 – David Knarr

Laura is a pianist and David, an organist.

It is my wish that all those involved in the music program at Calvin will have an enjoyable and relaxing summer and be ready to make music again in the Fall.

May everyone at Calvin enjoy their summer and perhaps consider joining one of the music groups in September.

Elizabeth Hackett



Little John the Baptist Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing church" with their cat.

He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A little while later - she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water.

She called out, "*Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!*"

Johnny looked up at her and said, "*He should have thought about that before he joined my church.*"

PENTECOST - June 12, 2011 in the world

Pentecost is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. The feast is also called Whitsunday especially in the United Kingdom. Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday. Pentecost Sunday, which marks the end of the Easter season in the Christian calendar, celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. Pentecost 2011 – Sunday June 12, 2011

Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church".

Since Pentecost itself is on a Sunday, it is automatically a public holiday almost everywhere. Additional restrictions to Sunday opening hours may apply.

Pentecost Monday is a public holiday in many European countries including Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, and (most parts of) Switzerland. In Sweden, it is also a public holiday, but Pentecost Monday, through a government decision December 15, 2004, was abolished and replaced with the Swedish National Day. In Italy and Malta, it is no longer a public holiday.



Men's Breakfast BBQ

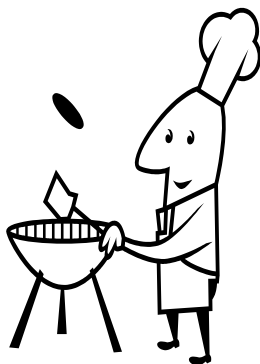
at the home of Grant and Dorothy Scott,
5:30 pm, Wednesday, June 22nd

All men of the Church are invited to join in the food & fellowship around the BBQ. Please bring a dessert or salad as a contribution plus your beverage of choice.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Extra lawn chairs are always appreciated.

To confirm your attendance, please call Grant Scott or Bill Woods.

Know that all men are most welcome; hope to see you there!



The Gift of Our Christian Education Coordinator

On Sunday, May 22nd, Larry Brown, the chair of the Personnel Committee, shared with the congregation the good news that we have our new half time Christian Education Coordinator. Leanne Knechtel comes to us with a passion for working with children and youth. She has energy. She has spiritual gifts in teaching, mercy and exhortation. She loves music and worship, and is learning to play the guitar. One of the members of our search committee described her as "a breath of fresh air". Leanne grew up in a Baptist Church in the Grimsby area. She has just graduated from Emmanuel Bible College here in Kitchener with a four year Bachelor of Theology in Youth Ministries and received the Student Life Award from that institution.

Calvin Church has been blessed by the ministry of Amy Reinders, who has been our Christian Education Coordinator since October 2009. Amy introduced more activities for our children, youth and families during that first year with us. This included a very successful Vacation Bible School in the third week of July 2010. When Amy got full time work as a teacher in September 2010, she continued to work alongside us with a reduced schedule. The active and positive presence of PYROS, our youth group, has continued to bless our congregation. PYROS and Amy have provided some events for children (families) like the Halloween Party, a Toboggan afternoon, the Easter egg hunt and a Movie night. They have also provided lunches after worship, raised money for Presbyterian World Service and Development with a 30 hour famine, and encouraged our church to support ROOF (a Kitchener agency that supports youth who do not have a home).

Having a Christian Education Coordinator who is half time will encourage us to build upon the strengths that we have shown in discipleship. Leanne will have the time to help us build our programming for children, youth, young adults, families and people of all ages. She will be able to follow up with those who come to Vacation Bible School. She will connect positively with families in our church, and encourage our children to be part of opportunities for learning, friendship and mission.

The key to moving forward positively is that we share together in the goal of growing in our faith and sharing God's love in acts of kindness. Both Leanne and Mark are hands on people who are able to provide leadership to our congregation. They also will be encouraging us to make use of our gifts to be part of the ministry of Calvin Church. The health and strength of our congregation rests in our people. We have the potential to grow as a congregation when we participate actively and regularly contribute to the budget as we are able.

A church sign from England . . .

All services are different, we leave the repeats to T.V.

CALVIN STAMPERS

The Calvin Stampers, a small but energetic group of ladies, have enjoyed making greeting cards to be used by the Pastoral Care committee and the Sunday School. Each month, the participants make 8 cards; they keep 4 for themselves and donate 4 to the church. Occasionally, some of these cards have been displayed in the Narthex so that people coming to Church can see our lovely creations. Due to the hard work of this group, we now have a small surplus of cards. That is, we have more cards than are needed at this time. Therefore, we have been granted permission to sell these extra cards to the congregation.

Beginning Sunday May 29, you may browse through the selection of cards and purchase any that you like for the bargain price of \$2 per card. Envelopes will also be available to be purchased for 25¢ each. The proceeds from these sales for May & June will go to the Calvin Campership fund.

If you would like to join the Calvin Stampers, please speak to Janet Harrison.
New members are always welcome!



2011 Vacation Bible School Program



Shake It Up Cafe: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe

When: July 11-15

Time: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Calvin Presbyterian Church

Cost: Free

Ages: Preschool (3-4 yrs. old - must be toilet trained) to Gr. 6

To register: call the church office at 519-744-4061 or email calvin@calvinchurch.ca



May 2011 - Financial Update

Once again it is time to update you on our current operating results for the year to date. These numbers are for the period to the end of May 2011.

	2011		2010
	May	YTD	YTD
Receipts	\$ 15,909	\$92,651	\$ 102,529
Expenses	<u>19,012</u>	<u>99,810</u>	<u>107,218</u>
Surplus(Deficit)	<u>\$ (3,103)</u>	<u>\$ (7,159)</u>	<u>\$ (4,689)</u>

As you can see above, receipts this year are still less than they were last year. However, if we include our contributions to "Special Projects" during the first five months of the two years, the difference between 2010 and 2011 is a little less than \$6,000, instead of almost \$10,000 as noted above. What all this means, I think, is that although we are a bit behind, we still have lots of time, and lots of ability to catch up before the end of the year.

The deficit for the first five months is not much different from last year because expenses are also less than they were in 2010. As always, we require continued support to meet our goals. Our prayer is that we will have sufficient to meet our needs and continue God's work here at Calvin.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Thompson, Treasurer



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The Breakfast Club

We have had another great year at the Breakfast Club. We volunteers have served many nutritious breakfasts. Our hungry guests number from 36 children a day, but as many as 49. Leaving the church gym at 8:50 a.m., Tuesdays through Fridays, they are some of the primary and junior students of Forest Hill Public School, where there were approximately 535 students, some new to Canada, from 26 different countries and speaking 28 languages. This is truly a multi-cultured Breakfast Club, some children not able to communicate when they first arrive at the Breakfast Club, and not able to spell their names for our attendance records. It is not always the students from far off lands; one of the volunteers who helps prepare and serve food is originally from one of the Caribbean Islands.

The Breakfast Club program started again in early October. A number of the children returned from the previous year, some of the older students brought younger siblings along, and in one case, a cousin, and another, a school friend.

Our Breakfast Club is part of the Nutrition-for-Learning network of over 122 programs throughout Waterloo Region. Every year there are more programs starting, most before school for breakfast time but some lunch or snack programs. The majority are for primary and junior students though some are offered to secondary students. Unfortunately, there is no age limit to empty stomachs.

Attention has always been paid to nutrition, with fresh fruit, bagels, cereal, juice, milk, and water served each day. Several times each month we offer additional variety and protein, with scrambled eggs, bean burritos, cheese and yogurt, and occasionally other popular choices such as potato patties, pancakes, waffles or pizza. We must be doing something right: almost all of our guests love the food and some arrive asking, 'What's for breakfast?'

There are 22 enthusiastic, caring people who volunteer at the Breakfast Club. Five to seven volunteers each day either prepare and serve breakfast, or make sure each child has registered and washed his/her hands. The program coordinator monitors the students and occasionally joins the children in one of the games. For example, a handful of students will be highly amused at the coordinator's attempt at skipping rope or basketball.

In January we replaced the old wood-metal, children's chairs, with 40 new plastic-shell metal framed chairs. The children like them and they are easily stacked.

Recently, we were promised a new refrigerator for our kitchen, through a grant program, by the Breakfast Foundation of Ontario. We look forward to this new refrigerator arriving before the startup of another Breakfast Club.

The Breakfast Club program ends this year - on May 27th.

Submitted by: *Mary Hetherington*



The Men's Breakfast Group

For those men new to Calvin, a group of men meet once a month, on the 3rd Saturday (unless there is a conflict) for breakfast and a time of reflection. Know that you are most welcome. The strong core of attendees is from Calvin, but we now have 4 men from Knox Presbyterian plus occasionally men from other Churches. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. in the kitchen on the designated Saturday. Typically there are approximately 20 men for breakfast.

On March 26, Bob Duncanson spoke about "one" of his passions/obsessions, the myths and facts of **King Richard III**. Bob belongs to a society that researches and promotes the historical facts of King Richard III. You can find out more about this society at <http://home.cogeco.ca/~richardiii/>

In April we were fortunate to have Laura Ashfield, daughter of Reverends Linda and Brooke Ashfield, speak to us about her **experiences in the middle-east**. Two years ago, Laura participated in the 4th International Young Adult Conference in 2009 of SABEEL Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center which included visits to Palestinian and Israeli communities. Then last year Laura returned on her own to further her understanding of a very complex situation. Her presentation was very timely, given the recent pronouncements by President Obama about the borders of Israel.

On May 8, the group again bought carnations for the women of Calvin in recognition of **Mother's Day and Family Sunday**. 80 carnations were distributed. We enjoy doing this small gesture on this special Sunday.

On Saturday, May 28, our last breakfast until September was at **Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo**. All were invited to come and help Knox celebrate this historic occasion of their new Church building, the beginning of something truly awesome.

We gather to listen to those who help make our world a better place to live. Come, enjoy the fellowship and be inspired. This is a great time for fellowship, without the commitment for additional volunteering.

Remember the **Men's Breakfast Club BBQ** (details are also printed elsewhere in this issue). Please join us at the home of Grant and Dorothy Scott at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 22, 2011. Jeff Scott, Grant and Dorothy's son, will again act as chief chef. We always have a great time. All are most welcome; hope to see you there. Please bring a dessert or salad as a contribution plus your beverage of choice. (This event occurs rain or shine). You need no special invitation, please come.

Submitted by: *Rob McCuaig*
on behalf of Bill Woods.



From the Board of Managers

Submitted by Phil von Farra

The Board of Managers would like to thank everyone for their support with the Spring **Garage Sale**: from those that set the tables up, everyone that put everything on the tables and pricing, all those that helped on Friday and Saturday during the sale, and finally with the clean up. Many thanks to the ladies who supplied food before the sale.

We raised just over the **\$1700.00** at the sale this spring.

Again we will be holding a Fall Garage Sale (Sept. 23 & 24) – further details will be in the Bulletin.

The **Fix-up/Clean-up Day** that was to take place on Saturday May 14, was cancelled due to the rain. A few Board members and Jake deWit did show up and worked on a couple of things:

- they completed the shed.
- they took apart the storage area under the emergency stairs from the sanctuary.

There was hope that some yard work and flowerbeds could be looked at. With the rain, this did not happen. If you have some free time and would like to help out with this, feel free to drop by the church and pick a flowerbed to clean up. We have noticed a lot of weeds, thistles and dandelions etc. taking over the yard and flowerbeds. Thanks to George Vanderschaaf who has been looking after some of the yard maintenance already.

THANK YOU

to the youth group and their leaders who took the time to clean the pews and windows during their Fast.

Delta Air has installed our new **Heating/Air Conditioning** unit on the roof. All the funds have been raised to purchase the unit and we are going to be doing this in three payments. With this project behind us, the Board can now turn their attention to the carpets that need to be replaced around the church and any other projects that need to be addressed.

If you should have any questions, concern or comments please feel free to talk to me or any other Board member. To see what the Board is working on, you can look at the minutes from each meeting posted on the bulletin board before you enter Calvin Hall.

Hope you have a great summer and see you in September.



yet another church sign from England

*Can't sleep?
Don't count sheep –
Talk to the Shepherd*

A Message from the C.E. Committee ...

As we move into spring, the youth of Calvin continue to work together, grow as a community and lead programs for the youngest members of Calvin. Some of the highlights of the past 2 months include the following events:

From April 1st to 2nd, PYROS held its annual **'Fast for the World'** in support of PWS&D. With the continued support of the Calvin congregation and the determination of PYROS members, we were able to raise a total of \$1275 for PWS&D, which the youth chose to put towards programs that enable individuals to succeed, such as leadership programs, farming programs and education programs. A big thank you to everyone for their support, and an especially big thank you to Glen Harrison who put together a fabulous lunch to break our fast.

On April 17th PYROS helped put together and run the 2nd Annual **Easter Scavenger Hunt and Lunch** for the Sunday School children. This was a great afternoon as the kids explored the church and sought out different clues and treats. Lots of laughter was had, and some fun and exciting games of tag were played once everything had been found and retrieved.

On May 1st PYROS hosted a **Kids' Movie Night**, popping bag after bag of popcorn, and showing the movie 'Despicable Me.'

As we head into the summer, there are still a number of events on the calendar for the youth and children of Calvin:

The annual Church Picnic will be on June 12th. Following the lunch, PYROS will be running games and activities for all children and families, with many prizes to be won.

On June 18th PYROS will gather together and celebrate the end of another year together. The youth group is currently in the midst of determining exactly what they will be doing that day.

From July 11th to 15th, Calvin will be offering its 2nd Annual Vacation Bible School program. This year's program is titled **'Shake It Up: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe.'** The program will run daily from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and is available for children from ages 3 (must be toilet trained) to grade 6. For more information or to register for this program, please speak to a member of the C.E. Committee, or contact the church office.

Finally, the C.E. Committee would like to congratulate **Ethan Brown and Jorge Arce** who have been hired and are currently working as part of the Senior Leadership team at **Camp Kintail** this summer. As well, we would like to congratulate **Diego Arce** who was accepted into this year's Leader in Training program at Camp Kintail, and will be heading to Camp Kintail at the beginning of August for a month.

As always, your Friend in Christ,

Amy Reinders