

THE CALLER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

July/August 2015

Surveys, Good Questions, and Honest Answers!



With last Sunday's review, two of Calvary's interim surveys are now completed. The first was a look backwards: *How Have We Come to this Place?—A Congregational Assessment of Calvary's Past*. Our second is: *Who are We?—A Congregational Assessment of Calvary's Present*. After worship on Sunday we had a Calvary Conversation on the second survey and will continue that every few weeks or so. And, from what I heard from those in worship, the surveys are serving a very useful purpose in giving us a clear picture of our congregation and the challenges facing us—helping us get ready for the call of Calvary's next Senior Pastor.

I found the second survey especially enlightening. While there may be opinions expressed that could be challenged, every voice and every opinion is welcomed and useful. And, there was the occasional request for clarification. For example, there were some comments on worship about why we are saying prayers together and why ever so often we have a "Giving Witness" where we say what we have come to know and trust as followers of Jesus. The respondents felt this wasn't "Baptist."

So, let me attempt answers. First, though we come to worship as individuals our worship is corporate, for we are a family, on mission together, one in mind and spirit. We sing the same hymns together, speak an opening litany together, we read the same scripture, and we pray together—sometimes the same prayer and sometimes what is on each heart. When we pray a specific prayer together the purpose is to acknowledge that there are some things we need to speak not just individually, but together in one voice. Jesus knew this (the Lord's Prayer), and the church ever since has known this. While this might not be practice among all Baptists does not mean it's not "Baptist." As I see it, both individual and corporate prayers have their place.

Now, to the comment on our intermittent "Giving Witness"—which serves an affirmation of faith. The Baptist Worship Manual published by American Baptists lists this as an important part of Baptist worship.

What Baptists caution against isn't the reading of a historic creed or confession of faith, but "Creedalism." Creedalism speaks to the use of creeds as a test of fellowship, a doctrinal standard to which one must agree—or be subject to being condemned, ostracized, persecuted, or worse. Historically, this is how Baptists have understood creedalism. Bill Leonard, Dean of the Divinity School and Church Historian at Wake Forest, says (in *Baptist Questions, Baptist Answers*, 2009) "Baptists are confessional but not creedal."

From our earliest days, Leonard says, Baptists have written confessions of faith (together, they fill whole books—I have one with over 600 pages of Baptist confessions). At our best they have been used gracefully to give witness to our faith, without demanding that all agree, either in whole or in part. At our worst, confessions have been used to enforce uniformity and to exclude. When the latter occurs Baptists are no longer giving witness—they have become creedal. For Baptists, faith statements are "testimonies of faith," not "tests of faith."

One of our very best Baptist theologians, and one perhaps respected more by the world-wide church than any other, Glenn Hinson, argues convincingly (in "Creeds and Christian Unity: A Baptist View" in *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, 23:1) that historic creeds of the church, such as the Nicene Creed (widely accepted, he says, by early Baptists), and contemporary confessions rooted in scripture, serve the church well by guarding against faddish doctrinal statements based on someone's current whim.

Indeed, when the revered eighty-year old Alexander Maclaren presided over the first gathering of the Baptist World Alliance in 1905 in London, he called those there to state their identity with historic Christianity. Here is what Maclaren said, and what he called upon Baptists at that meeting to do:

I should like that there be no misunderstanding...as to where we stand in the continuity of the historic Church. And I should like the first act of this Congress to be the audible and unanimous

acknowledgment of our Faith. So I have suggested that, given your consent, it would be an impressive and a right thing, and would clear away a good many misunderstandings and stop the mouth of a good deal of slander—if we here and now, in the face of the world, not as a piece of coercion or discipline, but as a simple acknowledgment of where we stand and what we believe, would rise to our feet and... would repeat the Apostles' Creed.

Baptists from several continents stood and repeated slowly and deliberately the whole of the Apostles' Creed. In no way, however, could their action be mistaken for creedalism.

Even within our own beloved denomination, *American Baptist Churches-USA*, we find the need to confess our faith. In 1987 we adopted a faith statement called "The People Called American Baptists: A Confessional Statement." It was revised in 1998 (and, again in 2005) as an "identity statement" titled "We Are American Baptists." It is a beautiful summation of our faith, and full of "American Baptists believe...affirm...are called to...are summoned to." It concludes on this high note:

"We further believe:

*That God has called us forth to such an hour as this;
That we live with a realizable hope;
That all things are held together in Christ;
That all creation will find its ultimate fulfillment in God;
That we shall see the One whose we are;
And, that Jesus shall reign for ever and ever!"*

Google the entire text of our ABC-USA identity statement and you'll find that it is thoroughly and historically Baptist: full of faith, based on scripture, and ever cautioning against creedalism. So, in the body of the statement we find this:

"Although Baptists have produced numerous confessions to express our common understandings of Christian faith, we hold the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as our final authority. We accept no humanly devised confession or creed as binding."

So, if a confessional statement in worship—when used to share our faith, and not to enforce it—is a proper Baptist thing to do, we still must be clear why we do it. My position is two-fold.

One, affirming our faith is a good, even essential, part of worship—we already do it many times whenever we gather...*in our singing of hymns!* ("Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so" is a faith statement.)

And, two, in this day when even those in the pews are sketchy as to what Christians, much less Baptists, have confidence in, it is *absolutely crucial* that we take time to state clearly what we have come to see as the witness both of scripture and Spirit.

Well, that's what I think, anyway. Please know that I'm always open to dialogue, and even to having my opinion changed—and, all the more so when approached in an open and friendly way. Isn't that the way it is with all of us? It's always good to be reminded that we never go wrong when we talk things through with each other in gentleness and with grace!

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Joe

Business Meeting Dates

Dates for the remaining Quarterly Business Meetings in 2015
and for the Annual Business Meeting in January 2016.

Sunday, July 26, 2015 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, 2015 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 24, 2016 12:30 p.m.



New Members Spotlight



Karen Rice



Mary, Grace, and Isaac Wright



Karen Heidelberger



Anna Pikhlenko



Save the Date:
Pastor Elijah's ordination
Sunday, July 26, 2015
during morning worship

UNPLUGGED

Tell Your Story

Be sure to join us **August 2—September 6** in Woodward Hall for our summer casual worship at 11:00 a.m. Each week different preachers will tell their stories through a Bible character or passage, like Hagar and Songs of Solomon that are often overshadowed, under—studied, misunderstood, and/or misused.



Music Programs

Dr. Cheryl Branham, Director of Music

2014-15 Season in Music and Worship: It's a Wrap!

As we enter the summer months, it's time to clean up after the old year and begin to prepare for the next. Thank you, Calvary, for another tremendous season! Here are some highlights of the 2014-15 season in review.

Thanks to everyone who participated in music during 2014-15! Members of our ensembles: Calvary Chamber Singers; Sanctuary Choir; Advent, Easter and Anniversary Festival Choirs; Handbell Choir and Children's Choir. Our invaluable Sanctuary Choir volunteer singers, those special folks who make the weekly commitment to sing each Sunday: Clark Cooper, Paul Lansing, Betty Mein, Virginia Sawyer, Amy Shaw, Tim Shaw, Jac Whatley, Kathy Whatley. Section Leaders Amelia Taylor, soprano; Teresa Ferrara (soon to become Teresa Blessing, after her marriage on July 12!), mezzo-soprano; Dwayne Pinkney, tenor—special thanks to Dwayne, who is saying goodbye after 5 years of service (we will miss you, Dwayne!); and Zain Shariff, baritone. Organists Matt Daley and John Dautzenberg, plus our principal substitute organist, Keevin Lewis; and we heard from our young organ student, Graham Velsey, age 14. Plus all those who play their instruments, and those who join in to create our Calvary Music Teams: Chuck Andreatta, banjo; Ashley Dalton, flute; Tomás Fajardo, violin and viola; Nurmira Greenberg, cello; Rachel Lea (Pastor Erica's sister!), harp; Ruth Speyer, violin; Amy Sullivan, piano; and others. Our children's leaders, supporting us so well in Music for Kids (our rehearsal period for Children's Choir): Karla Fahey, Danyelle Robinson, Jodi Smith, and others. Calvary is a musical community and we are blessed by all of you who share your gifts with us!



Our weekly rehearsal schedule each Sunday during the season: Chamber Singers at 9:15 a.m., Sanctuary Choir at 9:45 a.m., Music for Kids during worship. Festival Choir and Handbell Choir meet in sessions on Sunday afternoons. Make plans now to join us next season!

Calvary Children's Choir again sang on four Sundays during worship: Children's Sabbath in October, during Advent in December, on Palm Sunday in March, and Anniversary Sunday in June.

Our season in worship each Sunday, September 7, 2014 through June 7, 2015. This season, we took a lesson from the Unplugged summer series, incorporating bi-lingual elements each week, combining Spanish and English languages in scripture and in song. As always, we followed the Liturgical Calendar and incorporated Lectionary scripture passages each week, walking through the seasons of the church year, observing both "holy days" and "ordinary days." This cycle of church life is full of gifts and challenges, opportunities and blessings—from Advent / Christmas and Lent / Easter, to Pentecost and Anniversary Sundays, to other special days—such as remembering the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, or the passing of composer and pastor Andraé Crouch. Our life together in worship is our time to become the family at table, nurturing, preparing and sustaining us for the life of faith—individually and together in community. Thanks to all our pastors for your leadership in worship this past year!

Special Events and Concerts:

Friday Morning Music Club concerts in the Chapel each Friday at 12 noon, October through May. September 7, Sunday afternoon in Chapel: *The Power of Spirituals in Word and Song*, with Dr. Eileen Guenther and Calvary Section Leaders.

December 12, Friday evening in Sanctuary: *A Global Christmas*, to benefit children in El Salvador, featuring Calvary Singers with student musicians from St. Aloysius College in Australia and DC Boys Choir, plus John Dautzenberg at the organ and audience caroling in English and Spanish languages.

January 24, Saturday evening in Sanctuary: *Ensemble 2015*, premiere of a new baroque ensemble conducted by Tomás Fajardo.

February 28, Saturday evening in Sanctuary: *Organ Insights* concert featuring Patrick Kabanda. Other *Organ Insights* information sessions took place briefly after worship: March 15 with Irv Lawless, Curator of the Calvary Organ, and May 3 with Matt Daley and Keevin Lewis, featuring "Organ Petting Zoo."

March 19-21, Thursday through Saturday in Woodward Hall: *Johansen International Competition for*



Young String Players (ages 13 – 17); students from around the world performed in Semi-Finals and in Finals for audience as well as judges.

March 29, Sunday afternoon in Chapel: *Reflections on the Passion*, Calvary Chamber Singers with Ensemble 2015 in music of the baroque; featuring Caldara *Stabat Mater*.

May 1-2, Friday and Saturday in Sanctuary: *Worldstrides Heritage Choral Festival* in Sanctuary; student choirs from around the US and Canada performing for audience and judges.

May 17, Sunday afternoon concert in Chapel: *Charles Mokotoff, classical guitar*; sponsored by DC Hearing Loss Association.

Summer Worship:

We concluded the regular season on Sunday, June 7, celebrating Calvary's 153rd Anniversary with a church wide breakfast, Children's Choir and Festival Choir singing in worship, recognizing Calvary's graduates, community photo, lunch with birthday cake and singing. It was a great day to be joyful and thankful for God's many good gifts to Calvary Church!

Summer worship began Sunday, June 14. We worship in the Sanctuary through Sunday, July 26 when we ordain Pastor Elijah—don't miss this special and important day!

Unplugged worship, our casual or "acoustic" worship series, takes place for six weeks in Woodward Hall: August 1 through September 6, Labor Day weekend. If you'd like to participate in music, contact Cheryl Branham.

Once again this summer, we offer All-Come Choir on the final Sunday of each summer month—all are invited! **June 28, July 26 and August 30.**

The 2015-16 season begins Sunday, September 13, 2015 in the Calvary Sanctuary.

Thanks again, Calvary, for our wonderfully rich and varied life together in music and in worship. As always, Soli Deo Gloria—or as we Baptists would say, to God be the glory!
Grace and peace to all, and happy summer!

Happy 153rd Anniversary, Calvary!

As many Calvary folks know, our church was founded June 2, 1862. Since celebrating our 150th in 2012, we've continued to mark the church anniversary on the first Sunday each June—this year, it was **Sunday, June 7**, and was it ever festive! We want to thank everyone who attended and who worked hard to make it such a joyful day.

We started the day with a church wide breakfast sponsored by the Latino Fellowship—thanks to Pastor Edgar and all the brilliant cooks who hosted this event. Our menu featured specialties from Cuba and Puerto Rico, and Pastor Edgar brought a special program for the day. And as an added treat: our guests included a delegation from Cuba!

Worship was chock-full of special moments: Children's Choir singing "The Storm is Passing Over," plus recognizing all our graduates, and Festival Choir bringing an encore performance of Beethoven's *Gloria*, from the Mass in C Major. Thank you Calvary children, families and teachers; Pastor Elijah; Festival Choir and Calvary Soloists; plus Matt Daley on piano and John Dautzenberg on organ. After worship, everyone gathered on the platform for another Calvary tradition—our anniversary photograph! Many thanks to Frank Parrotta, photographer, for contributing his time and talents again this year.

Finally, we cranked it up into party mode over lunch in Woodward Hall, featuring a buffet feast plus birthday cake with candles and singing—even crazy birthday hats! Special thanks to our Calvary caterers, Theresa Beaton and Betty Crudup, and their entire team.

Thank you, Pastor Joe and Calvary staff, for your planning and support on such a special day. And thank you, Calvary Community, for another rich and rewarding year of church life together. 2014-15 was a fantastic season, and we are looking forward to all the good gifts that are to come this summer and in 2015-16. To God be the glory! -- Cheryl Branham

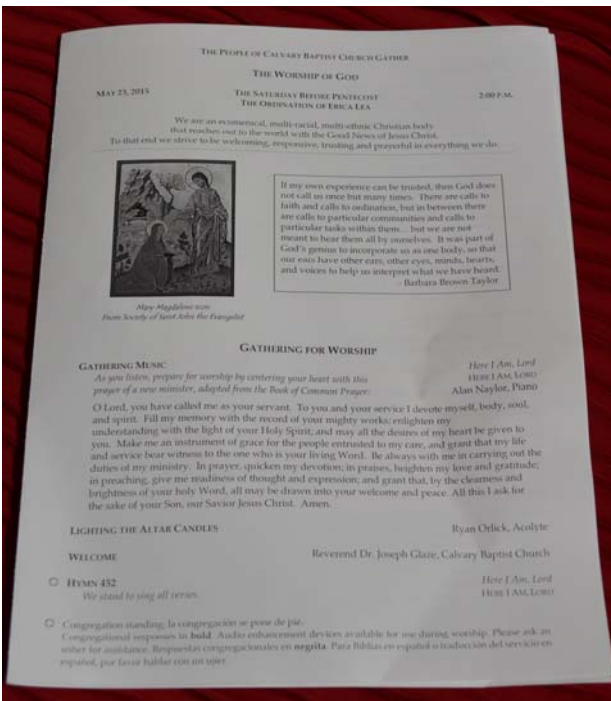


Snapshots



153rd Anniversary Congregational Photo

Photo by Frank Parrotta



The Ordination of Erica Lea, May 23, 2015



Calvary at Capital Pride 2015

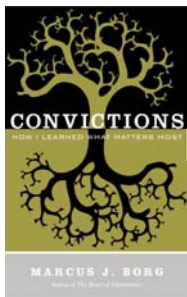


5th Annual Yard Sale

Once again, Calvary will have a yard sale and your help is needed.

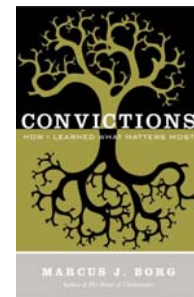
The sale will be **Wednesday, September 16 through Friday, September 18**. We are collecting new and gently used items. We will be accepting almost anything except shoes, clothes, large furniture, large TVs, and computers. Most other items are welcomed. We are also in need of large boxes, bags, and tissue paper to help put on the event. Please bring your donations to Kendall 5 (the back room of Kendall Hall). All proceeds from the Yard Sale will go to the Shalom Scholarship Fund.

If you have any questions please see Gretchen.



Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School

Join us in the Chapel, Sundays, July 5 through August 30 at 9:45 a.m.
as we work through Marcus Borg's book
Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most.



Shalom Scholarship Shoppes

A fun way to support a good cause and treat your taste buds in the process! There is a bake sale on the second Sunday of every month, during coffee hour, as well as occasional opportunities to purchase coffee and other fair trade goods. All proceeds help students in El Salvador complete their education, return home and improve their communities. Thus far, all of our efforts have raised \$4,400 towards our annual \$10,000 goal. Your continued support of the scholars is greatly appreciated!

The next bake sales are July 12 and August 9. Stop by and grab some goodies before they are gone! If you would like to be involved in baking for future events, contact Holly Miller, hollydotmiller@gmail.com. Donations can always be made online at calvarydc.org/give, be sure to designate the gift for Shalom in the drop down menu. Don't forget to like the Shalom Scholarship Facebook page for the latest news about our fundraising efforts!

www.facebook.com/ShalomScholarship



TRIVIA NIGHT!

Join us July 21st

6:30-8:30PM

in Butler Hall

AND SUPPORT

THE SHALOM SCHOLARSHIP!



forthcoming from Wipf & Stock

The Courage to be Queer
Jeff Hood

God is Queer. In a world of normative paradigms, God will never fit in and nor should we. That hating and loathing for something that will consistently be present and will wrap itself around our hearts and into the Queer. The Courage to Be Queer is about the witness and beauty of an indescribable and uncontrollable God. What is the Queer calling us to be? We are to be the ones shouting for justice. We are to be the ones dancing for freedom. We are to be the ones dreaming for hope. We are to be the ones.

In the midst of the spectacle of it all, there will be those observers who hear the knocking and lean in. Will you open the door?

ISBN 978-1-60259-719-7 paperback

Jeff Hood is a queer pastor, activist, and theologian. A graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary amongst other institutions, Hood recently concluded a Doctorate of Ministry in Queer Theology at Brite Divinity School. In 2013, PFLAG Fort Worth awarded Hood their Equality Award for Activism and Service. In addition to authoring six previous books and blogging regularly for The Huffington Post, Hood writes daily at myjeffhood.com.

Calvary Baptist Church
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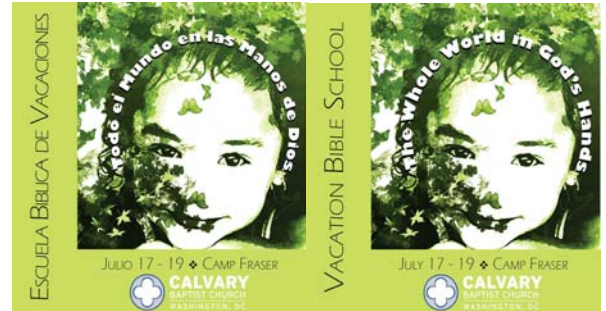
Tuesday, July 14 - 6:30 p.m. - Butler Hall

Theology on Draft Hosts Author Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood

Theology on Draft is on hiatus in July, with a special Theology on Draft, Tuesday, July 14, to hear Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood talk about Queer Theology and his book *The Courage to be Queer*. Jeff is a pastor, activist, and theologian, a graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Brite Divinity School. You won't want to miss what will be a compelling conversation.

Vacation Bible School The Whole World in God's Hands

Join us at Camp Fraser, Friday-Sunday, July 17-19 for Calvary's 2015 Vacation Bible School! Contact Daniel Alcazar-Roman or Eugenia Reyes for more details



All American Potluck Breakfast

Join us Sunday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel for Latino Fellowship's July breakfast. This month the breakfast will feature American food as a late Independence Day celebration. **Bring a covered breakfast dish, fruit, pastries or any other favorite breakfast treat.**

Mission Trip to El Salvador

Are you interested in joining us September 5-12 as we travel to El Salvador? Would you like to meet our Shalom Scholarship scholars, help rebuild a church destroyed by flooding, learn about the struggles and triumphs of the Salvadorans as we worship and break bread together? If you are interested in going or for more information contact Pastor Elijah (ezehyouse@calvarydc.org). It's still not too late for you to go!



Holistic Health Project, Yoga For Life

Everyone is invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. Thursdays in Shallenberger Hall for 8 weeks of Yoga and classes on various topics as we work to improve our physical, mental and spiritual health beginning August 13. All are invited! For more information and details, contact Pastor Edgar (epalacios@calvarydc.org).

Latino Fellowship Family Retreat

Join us Friday evening, August 7 through lunch Sunday, August 9, for our Latino Fellowship family retreat. Contact Pastor Edgar (epalacios@calvarydc.org) for more information.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Glaze Pastor During the Interim
Rev. Edgar Palacios, Associate Pastor; Rev. Erica Lea, Pastoral Resident; Elijah Zehyouse, Pastoral Resident
Cheryl Branham, Director of Music; Harold L. Ritchie, Editor Emeritus; Paul Rosstead, Church Administrator

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