

January & February 2018



CALVARYConnections

The Pastor's Pen by Rev. Jon Bonomo

The New Year and the Old Paths

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’” (Jeremiah 6.16)

Have you made any resolutions for 2018? New Year’s resolutions can be a window into our values. Most resolutions that I hear generally have to do with things like eating habits and exercise. And, those things are good. (I’ve been trying to lose the same fifteen pounds for the past two years!)

However, as Paul reminded Timothy: *“while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”* (1 Tim 4.8) Note well – physical training/health does have value, and so we should value it. However, training in godliness is more valuable, and so it stands to reason that we should value it even more.

If you go to the doctor, and the doctor tells you that you need to start eating better and exercising more regularly - as my doctor often tells me -- then what do you need to do? If you want to see improvement in your physical health, then you need to take the doctor’s advice and eat better and exercise more. Why? Because you don’t just get healthy by sitting around eating chips and watching TV! It takes effort. We all know this.

It’s very similar when it comes to our spiritual health. God the great physician tells us in his word the things we should be doing -- Attending to his word, praying, and loving and serving other people. There is no spiritual health if we are not doing these things. For just as with physical health, we don’t automatically mature spiritually. It takes training. It takes discipline. It takes devotion.

So, as we come to a New Year, I want to encourage you to devote yourself once again to the ancient paths -- beginning with the word of God and prayer (which really go hand in hand).

Here’s a good statement of what our posture toward the Word of God should be, from the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives. (Answer to question 90)

Four things:

1. *Attend to it* -- Prepare yourself to read the word or hear it proclaimed. Remember that you meet with the living God in its pages, and approach it accordingly.

2. *Receive it* -- When you read or hear the word, take it in and embrace it. Block out the distractions both within and outside yourself, that you might receive the word of God.

(continued on p. 4)

ENCOURAGERS' CORNER by Kathy Walker

You should have been there! At our December meeting, that is. We were so excited and energized as we filled Christmas bags with school supplies for the Homework Club children as part of that month's special project.

There's no particular training required to be an encourager. Just a loving caring heart for others. In fact, you can be an encourager every day. Ask God to show you who may need a smile, an uplifting word, a note, a phone call, or a thank you. We are called to encourage one another.

You should have been there! Actually, you **can** be there – at our **January 9th and February 13th gatherings at 7:30 pm** in the Educational Building. A seat at the table is already saved for you. We warmly invite you to come and enjoy filling gift bags for those who need cheering on.

Catch the spirit of encouraging!

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

WOMEN IN THE WORD Workshop

Save the Date!

October 12 & 13, 2018

Women in the Word: A Workshop
featuring Interactive Study Groups

General Sessions with Kim Monroe on "The Good News about God's Judgment"

Visit: www.womeninthewordworkshop.org

2ND ANNUAL WIC TEA

Save the date:

March 24, 2018. More details to come!

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The Session has set the period of January 2 to January 22 to receive nominations for members to serve on the Associate Pastor Search Committee. We will be electing the search committee members from the list of those nominated at the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 28.

UPCOMING TALENT SHOW by Rebecca Eaton

Calling all Talent, Artists, and Bakers!

Please join us on **Friday, January 12, at 7:00 pm**, for a church-wide talent show, art display, and new this year bake-off! All ages are invited to participate! And if you don't want to perform, please come to join the fun!

A mix of both silly and serious acts is allowed for the talent portion of our time. Small groups are encouraged! Performances should be in the range of 1-3 minutes.

Displays of art or collections and memorabilia are encouraged.

For the bake-off we are looking for themed desserts in one of these categories: Americana, Holiday, Nature, Sports, and Movies.

****If you have not already done so, please submit your act using a Submission Form (available in the Narthex), to Rebecca Eaton, either in person or by email at rebecca.deanne.eaton@gmail.com. Please be sure to include all your A/V needs for your act on this sheet.**

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

On **January 14, at 9:30 am**, we will begin our annual class for people interested in membership at Calvary. This is a six week class that will be led by pastor Jon, and will cover the basic beliefs of our church, the sorts of things we do, and why we do the things that we do. If you are interested in learning more about Calvary, please join us -- even if you are not sure yet whether or not you would like to become a member! Please contact me any time if you have any questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

We will be receiving applications for the Children's Ministry Director position until January 31. If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, please have them send cover letter and resume to [hiring@calvary-wg.org](mailto: hiring@calvary-wg.org).

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational lunch and meeting is scheduled for **January 28**, following the worship service.

JOINT WOMEN'S EVENT FOR CALVARY AND CHRIST THE KING by Yvonne Bonomo

Do you ever pass by some "strangers" in the halls of the Education Building on Sunday mornings, and think, "They must be members of Christ The King"? You might smile and continue on your way, knowing they may not speak much English, but glad that they're there to worship the Lord, too - like you! Well...what if they didn't have to continue being strangers? What if you could learn their names, so the Sunday smile could turn into a specified "hello"? What if they could use your name in return? What if it's possible you have even more than Christ in common with them, and just don't know it yet? Fret not! An opportunity is coming for us women to meet together for a short afternoon! Please come to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, **January 20th from 2-4:30pm**. We will have a structured time of introductions, followed by two testimonies from Christ The King pastors' wives, and a devotion lead by a woman from Calvary. Then, someone from CTK will teach those of us from Calvary how to make an authentic Brazilian dessert, by demonstrating it in the kitchen! (Who can pass up a free dessert demo?? Not me.) Afterwards, we will sit together and eat some appetizers and desserts, and socialize for the rest of the time. Come as sisters...leave as friends. I hope to see you there! RSVPs are helpful but not essential (to Yvonne at contact@yvonneweb.com).

OFFERING ENVELOPES by Penny Goodman

Offering Envelopes: Did You Know?

Maybe you've been using the offering envelopes for years, but did you know that the \$ _____ on the front of the envelope need not be filled out by you? This space is reserved for the counters when they count the offering. This space, when left blank, along with the envelope number, allow the giver privacy and anonymity when the plate is passed as well as when the church secretary enters the

amount into the database for the year-end statements.

The dates on the bottom of the envelope are for your purposes only. They are reminders for you, should you miss a week of church, that you may be behind in your intended offerings. Inside the top flap of your offering packet is a convenient worksheet on which, at the beginning of the year, you may record your intended offerings for the year. Also, on the back cover there is a place to record contributions that were not given in an envelope, such as supplies purchased on behalf of the church for which you have asked to not be reimbursed. (Be sure to complete a gold form for these expenses – see Becky McKay or Penny Goodman if you have questions about this.) By maintaining a running total on the envelope stubs, you may easily reconcile your record of offerings with the year-end statements issued by the church.

It is vitally important that the proper fund envelope be used for your offering, signified by color-coded stripes on the bottom of the envelopes. These fund envelopes: General, Deacons, Capital, Staff Gift, etc. indicate the specific fund to which your contribution will be added and used. If you want to use an envelope, but don't have one available for the fund you desire, mark very, very clearly on the envelope to which fund you would like your offering to go. But please do not signify on only one envelope that you would like the contents to go to more than one fund. This becomes challenging when the offering is counted.

Many thanks to the five teams of counters who faithfully stay late after church to count the offering. They often do their work with children eating lunch and playing noisily and distractingly in the conference room. You are a blessing to me, personally. Thank you!!

Please use the offering envelopes weekly. This practice makes the process of recording your offering so very much easier for the volunteers, as well as the church secretary. If you or your covenant children do not have offering envelopes, please contact Becky McKay in the church office.

(The Pastor's Pen, cont. from p. 1)

3. *Lay it up* -- Having received the word by faith, don't stop there! Reflect on the word and *treasure* it. Seek to memorize certain phrases or verses that you come across. Cling tightly **both** to the things that encourage you **and** the things that rebuke you, remembering that even when the Lord speaks a word against you, it is for your good. For his purpose is to conform you to the image of Jesus -- The Word made Flesh.

4. *Practice it* -- This is a necessary step in the overall process of our engagement with the word of God, but it is the one that is all too often neglected by us. You will not practice the word if you don't engage in the first three steps. But at the same time, you can do the first three and leave this one out. Remember the exhortation of James, "*be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*" (James 1.22) Having attended to, received, and laid up the word, consider how the Lord is calling you to change -- whether your actions, thought patterns, affections, or desires.

So, beloved, join me in resolving in 2018 to be a better Attender-to, Receiver, Layer-Upper, and Practicer of the word of God.

And, remember that one of the reasons God has joined us together as a body is to encourage each other in this. This is what all the things we do together are meant to bring forth in us and among us.

And in particular, this is the reason for our accountability groups and small groups -- that we might, as Hebrews 10.24 puts it, "*spur one another on to love and good works.*"

If you are not currently a part of such a group, then prayerfully consider joining with one. If the currently available groups do not meet at a time that works for you, then please let me or your elder know what day/time would work for you, so that we can consider your needs as we work toward forming new groups.

Please know that your elders are here to encourage you and help you in all these things. Pray for us in 2018, as we continue to seek the Lord for his grace to improve in the ministry of shepherding that he has entrusted to us!