

## upcomingEVENTS

### Sunday, January 29

9/10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Auditorium)  
5 p.m. High School Youth Group (Lodge)

### Monday, January 30

4:30 p.m. Elementary Open Lodge (Lodge)  
7 p.m. Families Victorious (Rooms A,B)

### Tuesday, January 31

9:45 a.m. Coffee Break (Cafe)  
3:30 p.m. Middle School Open Lodge (Lodge)

### Wednesday, February 1

10 a.m. Young at Heart (Ditto)  
10:30 a.m. Families Victorious (Room A)  
5:30 p.m. Family Night Dinner (served until 6:30 p)  
6:30 p.m. Family Night Activities (Various Locatior)

### Thursday, February 2

3:30 p.m. Middle School Open Lodge (Lodge)  
6 p.m. ALPHA 2012 (Rooms A-C)  
6:30 p.m. Co-ed Volleyball (Lodge)

## Prayer Concerns

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." ~ Hebrews 4:16

Pray for **KATHY STITES AND BRITTNEY** as they mourn the loss of husband and grandfather Don Stites, on January 24.

**CAROL TERPSTRA** is recovering at Freedom Inn after a fall.

## Family Night Dinner Menu

Tacos, chips-n-cheese, refried beans, spanish rice, applesauce, hot dogs, salad bar, and ice cream.

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# Calvary Connection

Living Life on a Mission and Sharing Stories About it

## thoughts from Pastor Frank

Have you ever noticed the inevitable movement in life toward the mundane? We so often start something with great passion and engagement, but give it time and we're in mundane mode.

We launch a new school year, but before long it's the daily grind. We marry with bright, shining eyes, but as the anniversaries pass the eyes easily dull. We are thrilled with the new job offer but as we settle in, the routine chills the thrill.

I think the same is true in our life as followers of Christ. It's easy to turn following into trudging. At last night's Focus Banquet, we were challenged to recapture the excitement of following Jesus. Daily, He sends us on a mission into our part of His world. We are being challenged to embrace life as mission, and discard life as mundane.

How about we all agree to keep reminding one another that life is a mission, that each day we are sent, and that following Jesus means every day has significance?



## Loving our Neighbors

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and Love your neighbor as yourself."*  
- Luke 10:27

This year, Student Ministries has taken the words of the Shema to heart. The High School Youth Group has been inviting Calvary's neighbors from Briarwood and the Beeline Apartments to join us on the first Sunday night of each month for an evening of fun and relationship building.

Our first night together was in October, and we used a carnival theme for the evening. There was a cake walk and other simple carnival games, including a dunk tank, which was the favorite activity for many of the kids. We also served hot dogs and ice cream for dinner.

In November we planned a Thanksgiving Feast where all the kid's families could come and enjoy a night of carving pumpkins and filling up on a turkey dinner. December was centered around Christmas, and the kids were able to decorate Christmas cookies, listen to a story, and make Christmas ornaments.

It has been great seeing Calvary students and the neighborhood kids building relationships with one other. We usually have around thirty kids attending each month, and it has been a blessing. Sunday nights with our neighbors, has been a great way for the youth group to put their faith into action, serve our neighbors, build relationships, and have fun all at the same time.

~ Story by Lindsay Boes

**moreINFORMATION?** Contact our Church Office at 396.7550  
Visit our website [calvarycrc.org](http://calvarycrc.org)

## Communication is Key

**Women's Haiti Trip.** The following women leave for Haiti Monday morning: Karin Bol, Marisa Brinks, April Christie, Jodi Dykstra, Mary Elling, Tonya Grotenhuis, Joyce Johnson, Cheryl Overweg, Kim Rietveld, and Natalie TenBrink. Pray for their safety as well as for this week to be filled with God inspired moments as they learn about Haitian culture with Haiti Partners and CRWRC. Follow their journey on our website, [calvarycrc.org/announcements](http://calvarycrc.org/announcements) where you will find the link to their blog.

**Calvary's New Pictorial Directory.** We need your help to complete the directory. If you still need to schedule your appointment, contact Terry VanDerKolk this week, at 399.9179. If you have been photographed, but have not told DeVries Studio which picture you want to use for the directory, contact them soon at 392.9608.

**Volunteer Celebration.** On February 12, help us celebrate our devoted Sunday Morning Kid Zone volunteers! We need 30+ teachers for Preschool through 6th grade during both services, and homemade baked goods. Contact Lisa at 928.1331 or Paige at 928.1330.

**College Care Packages.** Kid Zone invites you to join us in gathering supplies for our College Care Packages. Bring your items to the Collection Box outside the office by Thursday, February 9. A list of suggested items to donate can be found at the Information Center. Contact Lisa at 928.1331.

## WeeklyFUEL

**Series:** LIFE IS A MISSION TRIP (I)  
**Scripture:** John 20:21 "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."  
**Message:** WHO?

### Sunday

John 20:1-21 | Sent - Just Like Jesus

### Monday

Luke 24:36-49 | Sent to Every Spot on the Globe

### Tuesday

Isaiah 6:1-8 | Send Me!

### Wednesday

Acts 8:1-8 | "Wherever They Wen't"

### Thursday

Matthew 5:13-16 | What Others See

### Friday

II Corinthians 2:12-17 | Spread the Fragrance Everywhere

### Saturday

I Peter 2:9-12 | Chosen to Draw Attention to God



## Announcement

### Governing Board Nominations.

The following four individuals have been nominated for possible service as Governing Board Elders; Jodi Dawson, Mark McNally, Curt Schreur, and Cyndy Schurman. We are thankful for their willingness to serve in this capacity. If no objections are raised to their serving in this position, two new elders will be selected by lot on Sunday, February 12.

## ALPHA Memories

### A New Believer's Experience

I became a Christian January 8, 2003. On January 9, I began attending my first Alpha course. Six weeks later, during the Alpha retreat, as I was waiting to be prayed over by our small group leader, a man from another group sitting next to me told me he was accepting Christ as his Savior. A chill went through me. I asked him how it felt to go into the evening knowing he was going to do this, and he told me that he just realized, while sitting there, that he was going to do this. A bigger chill went through me and I was unable to stop a few tears from slipping out. I realized then that the most joyful experience I would ever have as a Christian would be witnessing someone else becoming a Christian.

I have been involved with seven Alpha courses, and at each Alpha retreat, the Holy Spirit has done amazing things . . . things I couldn't think or imagine. I always go into the retreat weekend praying diligently for someone in my group whom I think is far from Christ, hoping they will accept Christ into their life. Each time when I surrender my will to God and accept that God's timing is not my timing, the Holy

(continued on next column)



Alpha 2012 is an eight week course and begins on Thursday, February 2. We will first gather for dinner and then explore some of the most asked questions from people seeking God. Contact Matt Lehr at 928.1325.

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Spirit takes over and claims His next child for Christ.

My most memorable retreat weekend is of a young man in my group, for whom I had been praying fervently and had seen absolutely no sign of interest in becoming a Christian. His mother and I are friends, and we shared the desire to see him give his life to Christ. When I asked him if there was anything I could pray about with him, I expected nothing, but he told me he wanted to be saved. I almost fell out of my chair. We prayed together and the tears flowed, and shouts of joy came from others in my group. As we were celebrating, I looked over to where my mother was sitting, and she was praying with Pastor Frank . . . accepting Christ into her life as well!

I encourage you to invite someone to Alpha this week. I am excited to see how God will touch hearts and change lives.

~ Story by Bernie Bennett

## My Journey to Profession of Faith

### A Simple Invitation Makes a Big Difference

**(Nicole's Story)** I, like most people I know, have had ups and downs in my relationship with Jesus. My relationship began when I was little (just 6 or 7 years old) and I had a close relationship with Jesus. But there was also a time in my life when I remembered God only when I needed or wanted something. Then, I started attending Sunday School and going to a class at Rose Park Baptist Church. I was baptized, and again, for a while, I had a really close relationship with God. Unfortunately, our family moved a few times and I didn't know where to go to church.

When I first learned about Calvary, I didn't know how I was going to get there and I really didn't know anyone there, so I just didn't go. But then one summer, I came to Vacation Bible School, but didn't accept the invitation to continue coming to the Backyard Kids Club. The following summer, I attended VBS again, and that's when I met Stephanie Hoekstra (she was the van driver). On the last day of VBS, after Stephanie had dropped off everyone but me, she asked me if I would like to be picked up on Sunday mornings to attend church with her and her family. I said, "yes," and she's been taking me ever since.

I also started going to Open Lodge and Youth Group (Stephanie introduced these to me.) I loved Calvary so much that I wanted to learn how to join the church. Ross told me



about Profession of Faith, and I knew immediately I wanted to do it. Over the six weeks of going through the class with Stephanie, who was my mentor, I learned so much about myself and God, and have traveled so far in my faith that I now volunteer at the Elementary Open Lodge.

**(Stephanie's Story)** As Nicole mentioned, I first met her a couple summers ago when I picked up children in her neighborhood for VBS. But it wasn't until this past summer after attending VBS again, that Nicole started attending Open Lodge. This is where we were able to spend a lot more time together. (We both like board games.)

Nicole also started to attend youth group and welcomed my invitation to join my family at church on Sunday morning. Nicole came each week and shortly after asked if I would be her Profession of Faith mentor so she could join Calvary. I was happy to do that. I think Nicole has been in love with Jesus for a while and just wanted to make it "official" and tell us all. Nicole helps out with the children at Open Lodge on Mondays, and she helps me on Wednesdays too. She encourages the kids and asks them how their day was, even helping with discipline in the van. Nicole often shows Jesus' love to others. It has been a pleasure to get to know Nicole, and I know God has great plans for this bright young lady!

## Men of God



Our Team of Dedicated Cadet Leaders

## Growing in Wisdom and Stature

Men rarely show their emotions. If you ask people on the street, they will tell you that men are not typically thought of as spiritual, instead different adjectives are used to describe most men.

Fortunately, we have men that belong to an organization where prayer, praising God, and leading boys to Christ is expected and a normal part of their lives. Such is the Calvinist Cadet Corp.

The Calvinist Cadet Corp was founded by Christian men, in 1952, with the purpose of providing local churches with a ministry that enabled them to effectively share Christ's love with boys from their church and surrounding community. At its core is the Bible, the Word of God. The organization uses the title "Calvinist" to honor the Protestant reformer, John Calvin, who devoted his life to religious education of God's children.

Luke 2:52 states, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men." The goal of the Calvinist Cadet Corps, based upon that verse, is to help boys grow spiritually in all areas of life (devotional, mental, physical, and social) by providing Christian men with a uniquely designed structure, program, and materials to mentor boys effectively.

In Cadeting:

- **God is revealed in His Word.** The cadeting ministry encourages studying the Bible as the guide to life.

- **God is revealed in nature.** The cadeting ministry encourages experiencing the presence of the Lord in His glorious creation. Learning the skills of an outdoorsman builds a boy's character, and developing a boy's understanding of his place in God's world helps him to be a faithful steward.

- **Men as God's servants.** The Calvinist Cadet Corp is the ministry of men of God who are dedicated to bringing boys into a living relationship with their Lord and Savior. These men, understanding their imperfections, hold on to the promise that the Lord will bless their prayers, their example, and their instructions if they rely on God's strength.

A few weeks ago, I had the honor and privilege of representing the Ottagon Cadet Council at the 2012 Cadet Congress. Over 100 men of God, representing over 575 Cadet Clubs and almost 10,000 Cadets from the US and Canada, gathered first and foremost to honor and serve our God. All of what we know about Cadeting, and as described above, was on full display for three full days. The very first item on the agenda for Congress 2012, after calling the meeting to order, was to assemble in the Sanctuary and spend an hour in scripture, praise, and prayer.

## Men of God . . . continued

All deliberations and decisions were preceded by scripture, praise, and prayer. And in the end, we closed with scripture, praise, and prayer. It is warming and uplifting to know all these men have the same goal . . . to serve God and lead boys to Christ.

Looking around the room, I was humbled to see the years of serving God from these men. Seeing service stripes representing 30, 35, and 40 years was not uncommon. One gentleman, Will Brock, was recognized for celebrating his 50th year as a Cadet leader. If counted, years of service in that room would have totaled in the thousands. Praise God for these men!

There were also many in the room with 5 and 10 years of service, involved and committed to growing God's Kingdom through Cadets. It's good to know Cadets, our boys who are the future of our church, are in good hands.

But the highlight of the CCC Congress is always when 100+ men stand and honor God with their voices singing the Cadet Hymn, "Living for Jesus." It is truly powerful and inspirational.

"Living for Jesus a life that is true,  
striving to please him in all that we do.  
Yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free,  
this is the pathway of blessing for me.

Oh Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee.  
For thou, in thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me.  
I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne.  
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone."

~ Story by Fausto Fernandez



Cadets, counselors, and dads having fun in the winter weather.



## Announcement

**New Members Class.** The next class begins Sunday, February 5 at 10:30 a.m. and runs for four weeks. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Calvary, our mission, and where God is leading us in the future. The deadline to sign up is Monday, January 30. Contact Sally Wevers at [swevers@calvarycrc.org](mailto:swevers@calvarycrc.org) or 928.1342.