



Connections



JANUARY 2015

Forming Community, Transforming Lives, Reforming Our World

Outreach Ministry

Winter Outreach Focus: Backpack Kids

Hannah Snelling, Interim Outreach Director

How well do you know the outreach ministries of Calvin Church? Wouldn't it be wonderful to gain a deeper understanding and feel even more connected to these important ministries?

This January, Outreach Ministry is excited to begin a new movement: quarterly outreach focuses. Each quarter, the congregation will be invited to partner more deeply with one of our outreach ministries. Up first is a focus on our **Backpack Kids** ministry.

Hunger is a growing problem in the U.S. and Shoreline is no exception. Kids are especially vulnerable to hunger as they need vital nutrients to grow, yet may not have food security in their home.

Seeing this need, Polly Terman, a Calvin member, started Backpack Kids, a ministry that sends food packs home from school each weekend with kids and families in need. Currently, Calvin supports three schools: **Parkwood Elementary School, Einstein Middle School, and Shorewood High School.** Each month the food packs are assembled by some of Calvin's small groups.

When Backpack Kids began, just one school received these meals, but over the years it has grown. In order to meet the needs of more schools in the area, Backpack Kids has successfully recruited more churches into the ministry, partnering them with specific schools.

There are currently **six** churches working with a total of **nine** schools. The schools have taken notice and are deeply grateful

for the partner churches. What an incredible way to be the hands and feet of the Lord in our schools!

Getting the food together for these packs is a big job! Each pack includes supplies for **six** meals and **two** snacks, and Calvin is responsible for 50 packs a week.

For the next couple of months, we will be collecting some of the items needed for the food packs. You can be involved by being sure to bring these items with you when you come to Calvin.

As we partner in ministry with Backpack Kids, remember to pray for the kids who are being fed and their families, for the leadership and people involved in gathering the food packs, and for the schools we work with. Talk with your family about this project and how you might be involved.

In February we will highlight Backpack Kids one Sunday with an opportunity for you to see what it takes to get the food packs together, so be on the lookout for more information about that soon.

Adding a jar of peanut butter to your grocery list may not be difficult for you, but for these kids it makes all the difference in the world.

January Food Drive Items for Backpack Kids

On Sundays in January, please bring the following items to the foyer to be included in the Backpack Kids food packs:

- ◆ **Peanut Butter** 16-18 oz
- ◆ **Canned Chili** 15 oz
- ◆ **Refried Beans** 15 oz

Support Backpack Kids with a Fred Meyer Rewards Card Too

BackPack Kids has been added to Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program, non-profit number **NPO# 90203**. Fred Meyer donates \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

When you link your FM Rewards Card to Backpack Kids at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Backpack Kids earn a donation toward food security for kids.

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates.

FM Rewards Cards are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.



Music Director Search

A job description for the half-time Music Director position has been approved by Session. Ads are being posted on Calvin's website and a number of others for a permanent Director. In addition, the committee is reviewing possible candidates to fill the needs of the congregation until a permanent Director is found. We appreciate your prayers as we seek the person God has called to lead our music ministry. Thank you!

Tony Reynolds, Committee Moderator

2020 Vision Update for January 2015

Pastor Neil Trainer

Over the next five years, God is calling Calvin Church to be...

- **Forming Community** – deepening our connections within the congregation and extending redemptive hospitality to those in our community.
- **Transforming Lives** – growing together in Christ as we emphasize healing and reconciliation in relationships, and broadening our ministries to families.
- **Reforming Our World** – strategically showing and sharing the Gospel with words and actions, both around our neighborhood and around the globe.

To help us put in place a leadership and staff structure that will direct us toward this vision, leadership transition teams have been hard at work in recent weeks. Below is a summary of each position and current status of each.

Music Director

Team: Tony Reynolds (chair), Lynn Caulkins, Dean Jamieson, Dorothy Lindstrom, Art Nelson, Judy Runions

Update: Team has drafted a job description for the half-time music director position which has been approved by Session, and will begin posting ads in various job networks and publications to seek qualified candidates.

Facility & Hospitality Director

Team: Lisa Allen (chair), Jan Allen, Betsy Bain, Rick Goetz, Barbara Rood, Rafael Villagran

Update: Team has drafted a job description for the half-time facility and hospitality director position which has been approved by Session. A search team will be formed to recruit and interview candidates.

Family Ministries Director

Team: Rick Jackson (co-chair), Steve & Kara Mitchell (co-chairs), Roberta Gow, Christi Nixon, Kurt Olden

Update: Team has begun meeting and researching developments in contemporary ministries to families. Will draft a position description based on a solid new vision to better meet the needs of today's families.

Other "behind-the-scenes" work is happening too:

- A session task force is reviewing our "Cluster Structure" for our ministries to determine how our various ministries might be most effectively organized going forward.
- We have notified our local and international missionaries and ministry partners for whom we are eliminating funding due to necessary reductions in our budget.
- Our Staff Development Team continues to work on ways to better support both our current and future staff.

Chaplain to Seniors

Team: Dick Scheumann (chair)

Update: Session is exploring how this position might be expanded from quarter-time focused on seniors to a half-time position broadly engaging our pastoral care needs, including visitation, Stephen Ministry, and supporting our deacons.

Outreach Director

Team: Alison Neubauer, Rick Jackson, Hannah Snelling

Update: Team has assembled an Outreach Ministry Team to give strategic direction to our community and international mission engagement. Will review the job description of this new position for needed updates before beginning search for permanent employee to succeed our interim.

Communications Coordinator, Administrator, and Administrative Assistant

Team: Mike Bowerman, David Harrison, Greg Terman

Update: Team has begun collecting and reviewing sample job descriptions from similar positions in other churches.

Town Hall Meeting Sunday, January 11, 10:25 am

On Sunday, January 11, the Session will again host a town hall meeting between the second and third worship services in Fellowship Hall. In addition to receiving updates on our leadership transitions, please come and hear about the new strategic emphases of our Outreach Ministries and how you can be involved.

Communication: Moving Beyond Mind-Reading

By Greg Terman

Seeing the Life of Jesus through Luke's Eyes

At the Fellowship of Presbyterians gathering in Dallas last August, keynote speaker Alan Hirsch, in a talk entitled "Shaped by Jesus" (see video here: <http://www.fellowship-pres.org/alan-hirsch-shaped-by-jesus/>), discussed the risks that churches take by ignoring the *life* of Christ and concentrating only on his birth, death, resurrection and second coming. According to Hirsch, this is a long-standing problem in the church. Even in the Apostles Creed, Jesus's *life* is represented by a comma: "born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried". That is why, for some of us, it seemed particularly providential that Neil was planning to preach on the Gospel of Luke this winter and spring. If we don't study Jesus' life, as Christians, how can we emulate it? One of Jesus' characteristics was as a master communicator. Miracles aside, people came from far and wide to listen to him, and his words were life changing, life saving, and even life giving for some of his followers.

Strengthening Communications from Session

As the New Year dawns, Session has resolved to improve communications at Calvin. We confess we are NOT master communicators, but we will use multiple avenues of communication to minimize the need for mind-reading in the church.

- ◆ Our use of the *Connections* newsletter is one way to help members know what issues and actions are before Session for consideration. #
- ◆ We will make more frequent use of **email** to supplement snail mail alerts and bulletin announcements. For those without email, there will always be **print copies** available of emails to the congregation. See the tall kiosk in the foyer. #
- ◆ **Town Hall meetings** will continue approximately once a month. Whether Pastor Neil participates in all of these is under discussion and will depend on the times (i.e., it seems unfair to expect Neil to prayerfully prepare for three worship services AND still lead a town hall meeting between services). #
- ◆ There may also be a survey or two this year for Session to solicit member input on a number of topics to improve how Calvin Church serves God and our community. #
- ◆ Session has recognized that there is room to improve the quality of our print and electronic communications. The staff restructure plan includes the addition of a part-time Communications specialist to our staff. The position still needs further definition, but we are committed to moving forward with finding and hiring a church communications professional. #

Something to chew on...

*"...consider the tension between endings and beginnings...
As with any two forces that exist in tension,
it's easy for beginnings to overwhelm endings,
or for endings to blind us from beginnings."*

Beck A. Taylor, Whitworth University President, *Mind & Heart*, December 2014

To strengthen Staff-Session communications, a number of initiatives are being discussed but the revitalization of the Staff Development Committee is the most prominent of these. An intentional plan for giving regular encouragement and accountability to staff is almost completed. Such feedback will come with resources to facilitate learning opportunities to enable staff to serve Calvin better in the short and long-term.

Strengthening Communications to Session

In the meantime, it is important to remind you that communication is a two way street. Session also has found mind-reading unsatisfying.

- ◆ If you have questions, please ask us (our phone numbers and/or email addresses are in the directory).
- ◆ If you have suggestions please tell us.

Session has appreciated the letters that have come to us from Calvin members and friends, whether expressing concern or support for this or that decision. We are committed to responding to every one of these messages. Unfortunately, unlike Christ, there is nothing particularly special about Session members - except that we said yes when someone asked us if we would serve God and you in this way. Nonetheless, in trying to serve you better, I hope I speak for every Session member when I say that we will try to follow Christ's example and be better communicators going forward.

Sunday, January 25 9:15 am, One Service in Sanctuary Followed by Annual Congregational Meeting & Celebration

We will worship together in a single service in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. After a brief coffee break, we will convene the meeting to celebrate and anticipate what God is doing in and through Calvin Church.

Children's Ministry

“Assisting families in raising children to be lifelong Disciples of Christ.”

Karen Kirkman, Director of Children's Ministry

Helping Hands – Putting Faith in Action



Calvin Kids and stewardship go together. Children are excited to share their time, their talents and their treasures with those in need.

Jesus loves the little children, and little children love helping others as He has commanded us to do. As adults we can help our children see and participate in some of these opportunities! Thank you for allowing God to teach your children how to love neighbors as themselves.

Children's Sunday School Offering

Each Sunday during our 9:15 and 11:00 Children's Sunday school worship time, a special offering bowl is passed to the children. For the past year and a half our children's offering has gone towards matching funds for rain catchment tanks for a family in Kenya through WEI, Women Enterprises, International.

Last year our children collected \$325, contributing half of the amount needed to be matched by a family. **This year we are hoping to collect another \$325.** Won't you help? Your children can raise money by saving part of their allowance, doing chores around the home, or having special fund raising projects. *Thank you for giving the precious, life-giving gift of water.*

Winter Wonderland Paper Drive For Jacob's Well/Shoreline

Help us create a winter wonderland with much needed paper items! Our goal is 500 Items by March 1.

- ♦ **January:** 250 Rolls of Toilet Paper
- ♦ **February:** 250 Rolls of Paper Towels

Please bring your paper items to the receptacle in Fellowship Hall! Thank you!



Monthly Friendship Dinner

Saturday, January 10, 6-8:30 pm, @ the Hart's

The best gift you can open is your heart.

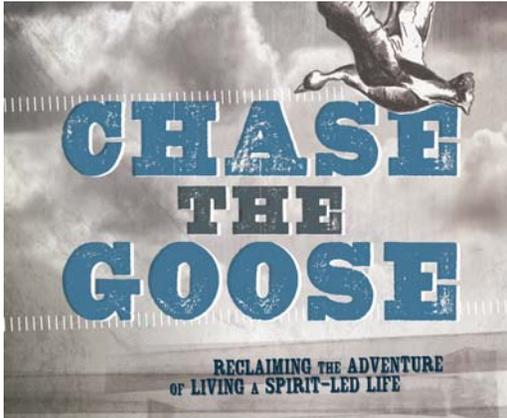
Come together with other Calvin families, with or without children, to discover each other and God's plan for us all through His church.

Adults come to Miles and Valya Hart's home for potluck dinner at 6:00 pm after dropping children at Calvin at 5:45 pm for childcare and pizza.

For more information and to register for childcare, watch your e-mail, or contact Karen Kirkman through the church office.



- TOP:** Families visit Crista Community for games, food, and good conversation.
- CENTER:** Calvin's Good News Club at Syre Elementary School's ninth year meant learning about God and His Amazing Creation.
- BOTTOM:** Kids Café Time on Sunday mornings includes treats and hot cocoa.



A **BIG** Youth Ministry **THANK YOU** to the adults that helped lead our Youth Winter Retreat January 2-4:

Cindy Snyder and Ray and Kathleen Pomerinke

Please express your appreciation to these people for helping our youth have an opportunity for fellowship and devotions exploring following the lead of the Holy Spirit.

Check back in the February Connections newsletter for pictures from the Youth Winter Retreat!

Winter/Spring Youth Ministry Calendars will be published and mailed in early January.

YOUTH MINISTRY DATES TO NOTE

Youth Group (Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30pm)

January 7 - First YG after Christmas Break (with dinner at 6:15pm)

February 18 - Ash Wednesday Service, youth will attend as YG activity that night.

April 1 - No YG during Holy Week before Easter

We will not pause for spring breaks as our various school districts do not have the same breaks.

Sunday Small Group (Sundays 9:15 - 10:15am)

January 4 - No Sunday Small Group

January 11 - Sunday Small Group returns from Christmas break

January 25 - No Sunday Small Group, single service and congregational meeting at 9:15am

April 5 - N No Sunday Small Group on Easter

Calvin's Vision House Giving Tree Was Huge Success!

When the congregation was asked to care for two families in need for Christmas, they answered the call! Not only were beautiful new outfits, along with winter coats and new shoes, given for each member of both families, there also was a huge response with wonderful gifts for the kids, and lots and lots of food and grocery gift cards to make this Christmas truly special.



✦ The kids in our Children's Ministry made Christmas cards as well as adorable hand crafted ornaments for the families.

✦ The students in our Youth Ministry made really beautiful hand-crafted bows to decorate the gifts.

✦ Donna Miller-Parker was indispensable as she gave her time and talents to help organize the Giving Tree.

Many thanks to all who participated, in both prayer and gifts.

November 2015 Financial Report

Calvin Ministries and Operations

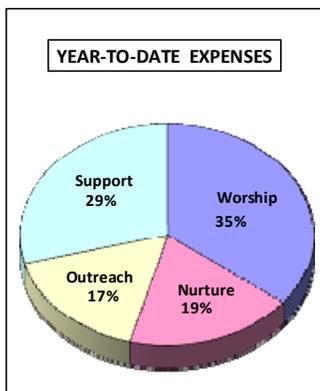
Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

2014-2015 Actual compared to Budget

	Nov	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	%
Income (Unrestricted)					
Contributions	56,909	245,596	280,000	(34,404)	-12.3%
Investments	443	504	100	404	
Bequest Income	691	691	0	691	
Total Income {a}	58,043	246,791	280,100	(33,309)	-11.9%
Ministry Prg & Operating Expense {b}	(64,558)	(302,568)	(292,361)	(10,207)	-3.5%
Surplus / (Deficit) {c}	(6,515)	(55,777)	(12,261)	(43,516)	

Designated Gifts/Program Revenue (Restricted)

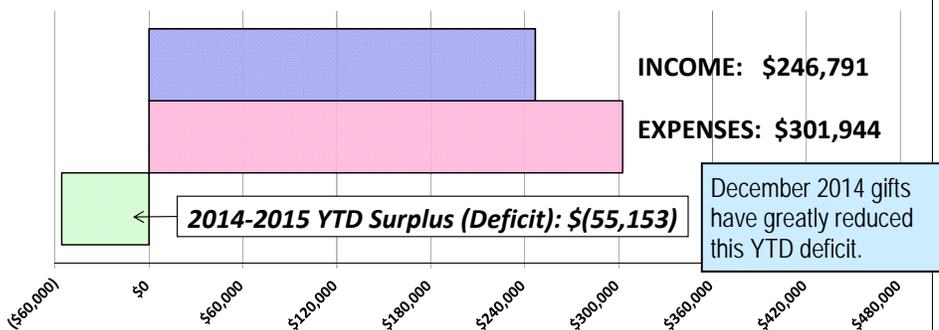
Deacons	3,200	12,961
Memorials	10,960	11,655
Outreach (incl CCO Grant)	2,727	50,185
Nurture (incl Fellowship Groups)	1,085	11,803
Worship	(9,735)	41,230
Support (incl Bldg Imprvmnt Gifts)	2,713	73,028
Endowment & Endow Interest	0	983
Total Restricted Receipts {d}	10,950	201,845



TOTAL RECEIPTS	
Total Inc {a} + Rstrctd Rcpts {d}	\$68,993 \$448,636

(a) Excludes Restricted Receipts (b) Net after Prg Revenue - See Pie Chart for breakdown

YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME* vs EXPENSES as of November 30, 2014



* Income includes congregational giving, event and reimbursement revenue, and reserve funds transferred into budget

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

If we have misprinted or just missed your birthday, please call the church office so a correction can be made.

1	20
Alo Isahak	Joanne Green
Evan Liu	21
JJ Portes	22
2	23
3	Sophie Kirkman
4	Jim Thomas
David Bartholomew	24
Kai Marsland	25
5	Linda Erickson
Peggy Baldwin	26
6	Dean Jamieson
Allen Clark	Jeanie Marinella
7	27
Ronald Boyce	Patsy Thiemens
8	28
Hilda Packard	Billy Wayne
9	McManus
Christine Stime	Kara Mitchell
Anita Tanner	
10	29
James Archer	Jan Gregersen
Rob Freeborn	Geri Johns
Lynn Reding	Mary Ellen Paulson
Bob Small	Ron Wirtz
Neysa Stanton	30
11	31
Cheryl Minnig	John Marker
12	
13	
14	
Victor Meniz, Jr.	
15	
16	
Alex Kerr	
17	
Ruth Rankin	
Dick Scheumann	
18	
19	
Kathie Sutherland	



For more information about Calvin's finances, please contact Finance Coordinator, John Claus, or Dan Coppin, Ministry Team Leader for Stewardship and Finance.

Note to contributors:

Counters do not have access to your pledge information. If you split your contribution, please always indicate the split amounts and categories on both the check and the envelope if you use one.

For current month calendar, go to www.calvinpc.org/Connect, Calendar.



Schedule Clarity

ALL meetings and events at Calvin need to be booked in advance through the church office. Email info@calvinpc.org with new requests changes. Thank you!

S*P*A*R*K*S

Senior Presbyterians, Active,
Radiant, Kicking Still

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday, January 21
12:30 pm

Lunch and program \$9

Entertainment: Surprise!

Invite your friends and reserve
your spot by contacting
Karen Claus.

Transportation may be arranged in
advance by calling Karen Claus.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Allen and Anne Clark

Aegis Shoreline

14900 1st Ave NE Apt 309
Shoreline WA 98155

Allen and Anne are looking for
transportation to Sunday worship
and other Calvin events. If you can
help, contact Deacon Nancy Bower-
man.

CONDOLENCES

To the family and friends of **Winona
Lundemo McPherson** on her pass-
ing on December 13, 2014, at the age
of 90. Winona was a member of Cal-
vin for 10 years. Her memorial ser-
vice was held at Calvin on December
22.

To **Edith Carey** on the loss of her hus-
band **Robert** from cancer a year ago,
December 2013. The Calvin office
learned of Bob's passing on the one
year anniversary of his death. Bob
and Edith have been members of
Calvin over 50 years, since the
church's earliest days.

THANK YOU

Danny and Lynn Reding would like
to thank the congregation for the generous
and sacrificial love offerings given on
their behalf. You are deeply loved and
will be fondly remembered.

Danny and Lynn Reding

NOTE:

As the Redings take their leave of Calvin,
they have shared their partially formed
plans in an email. If you would like a
printed copy, there are some available at
the reception desk in the church office.

GONDOLIERS

Fellowship and Service

Saturday, January 10, 2015

Cancelled -

Seahawk Playoff Game Conflict!

WANTED: OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Our front office has many wonderful
volunteers who work half-day shifts,
9am-1pm and 1-5pm, once or more per
month. A number of them leave during the
winter for warmer locations, leaving the
office handicapped without them!

Volunteers answer phones, greet visi-
tors, and other simple tasks. Whether you
have helped out in the past or never tried
this before, you would be warmly wel-
comed! Please call Barbara Rood in the
church office or Marjorie Winter who
does the scheduling.

Save the Date!

"Across the Generations"

Potluck and Folk Dance

Sunday, January 18

5:30-7:30 pm

Come for dinner and/or the music
and fun activity. Laugh with us as we
learn to follow the caller's instruc-
tions. Watch for more info soon!



Spring semester classes
offered in Edmonds

Be part of God's plan for Him to be loved by every people.

Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!
Psalm 96:3

Why Perspectives? What is Perspectives?

God has a "world-sized" role for
every Christian in His global pur-
pose. Whether people go to distant
countries or stay at home is a second-
ary issue. The primary issue is what
most people are hungry to discover:
vision to live a life of purpose. Dis-
covering that vision makes this
course valuable, and perhaps cru-
cial, for any Christian.

Monday Evenings | 6:30—9:30 pm |
January 19th—May 4th, 2015

Community Christian Fellowship |
615 Glen St., Edmonds, WA 98020

Perspectives is a 15 week course designed around four
vantage points or "perspectives" — Biblical, Historical,
Cultural and Strategic. Each one highlights different as-
pects of God's global purpose.

The **Biblical** and **Historical** sections reveal why our con-
fidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless
work from the dawn of history until this day.

The **Cultural** and **Strategic** sections underscore that we
are in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, con-
firming the Biblical and Historical hope.

Wednesday Noon | 11:30—2 pm |
January 21st—May 6th, 2015

North Sound Church |
404 Bell St., Edmonds, WA 98020

For more information and to register, see www.perspectives.org.

January 2015



www.calvinpc.org

18826 Third Avenue NW
Shoreline WA 98177

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 am

9:15 am **One Message, Three Styles**

11:00 am

CONNECTIONS DUE DATES

Issue	Due Date
FEBRUARY	Wed, Jan 14
MARCH	Wed, Feb 11

Please email all material to:

barbara@calvinpc.org.

Calvin Connections Editor reserves the right to edit materials to fit the space available.



CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER TEAM

Jim & Carol Archer	John & Sue Kropf
Geoff Dickson	Barbara Rood
Lois Hargraves	

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To subscribe or unsubscribe to Calvin Connections, contact the church office at info@calvinpc.org or 206-542-6181.

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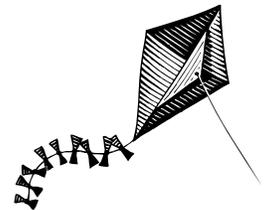
Windless in Shoreline

INDOOR KITE FLYING

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6:00 8:00 pm,
resuming January 6, 2015

Can you really fly a kit indoors? YES!

Calvin Church has been hosting this fun activity for a year. It is held in Calvin's Activity Center, is sponsored by a community group, and is open to all.



If you are unfamiliar with Indoor Kite Flying, just Google it for a video or check out this link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7hf9u2ZdlQ>.

Or come Tuesday night to see a demonstration by experienced kite flyers in Calvin's Activity Center. You just might get hooked on this great indoor winter activity!