



CALVIN CRC'S CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY –AUGUST 2010

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Way back in April, 20 women/friends from Calvin gathered at Providence Point for a weekend getaway. Seeing as how this was for WOMEN only, I wasn't able to attend, so this report is written by Kim, and pictures taken by Cheryl. I was disappointed when I was told I wasn't welcome :)

A weekend just for women. A weekend to relax, fellowship, learn, and to explore. That's what 20 women from Calvin CRC did early in April. We gathered at Providence Point, in Lanark, for a weekend away. It was ideally set, in the country, on the Cree River, with trees all around. The food was great, and the company even better.



What better way to get to know people from your own church that you don't know very well? I made a point to sit with different people at every meal. That was interesting. In this relaxed atmosphere we were able to share a little bit more about ourselves.

The weekend was about discovering what it means to rest in God. Each of us has a unique way to do this. But to rest in God is very important for every one of us. We are fed this way and in return, we are better able to give

(Continued on page 2 - See "Women's Retreat")

POINT TO PONDER

Written by: Pastor Ron

September 2011 is now upon us. The summer seems but a distant memory to many. Yet, the summer has also created some great memories. There was the great time of camping with the family. Or those lazy summer days spent by the pool reading and cooling off. Or those long walks with that special someone down by the water.

Carpe Diem!

Seize the Day!

Memories!

Moments frozen in time that, for the most part, bring a smile to our face and a warm feeling in our hearts.

One memory for me this summer was sitting at home late one evening and popping in

"Dead Poet's Society" into the VCR for yet another viewing. I love that film. There's just so much meaning packed into two hours on the screen. If you've watched this movie, you will remember the scene at the beginning of the film where Mr. Keating, the teacher, takes his students out into the hallway and inspires his class to achieve greatness by showing them pictures of the past. Individuals who have gone before them and made a difference in the world. "Carpe Diem" or, SEIZE THE DAY were his words. Make something of yourself! A great scene.

For many people, young people in particular, this past summer also created memories of ministry. All over North America, and even world wide, young people of all ages and nationalities "Seized the Day" and took advantage of ministry opportunities placed before them. They made a difference not only in the lives of others, but in

(Continued on page 3 - See "Ponder")

PLEASE SEND ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER TO PASTOR RON.
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(“Women's Retreat”)

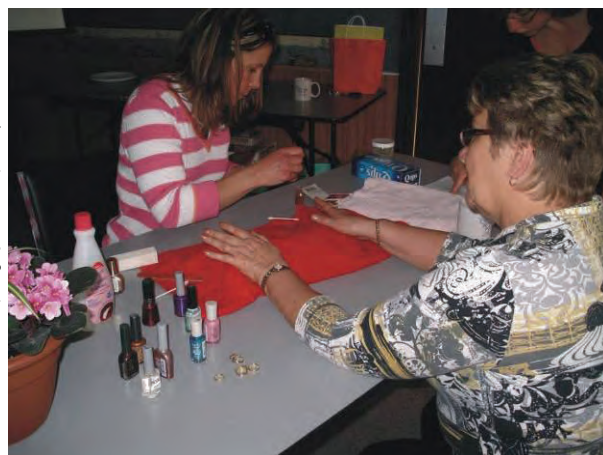
back to God, our families, our church, and to our communities. Resting “on purpose.” Making time every day to rest and spend time with God. He wants us to. He invites us to. Why shouldn't we?

In that rest, we can also be quiet and listen for His voice. We discovered three or four ways that God can and does talk to us: through scripture, God thoughts, pictures and nature. There are other ways too, but we only talked about these. We were challenged to continue to listen for His voice. God wants to speak to each of us, we need only to open our hearts.

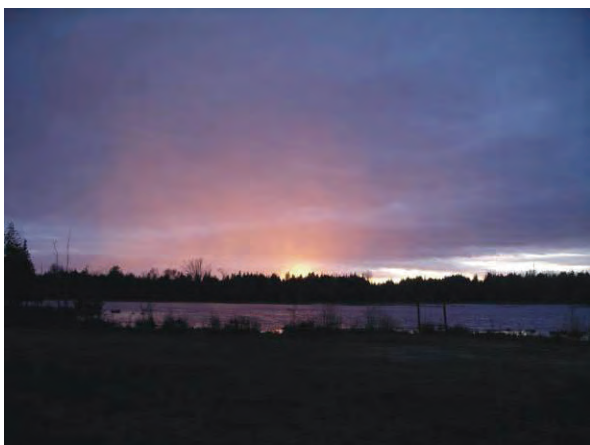


At the end of the weekend we were asked to write in a card a goal that we wish to accomplish in our own lives. It was personal, no one else will read it, but when we get the card back in three months, we will be reminded of what we experienced over this weekend and see if we are reaching our goals. There is no pressure, just a reminder of what each of us decided we would like to take home with us from the weekend.

A thank you to the people involved in the weekend. Thanks to Annette who brought the words of teaching to us. Annette also provided time for soaking prayer which some people experienced for the first time during the weekend. Thanks to Cathy, Sonja and Cheryl who provided the accompanying music for us to sing to. Thank you to the planning committee, Annet, Annette, Vera, and Kim for all the work you did.



Thank you to the people who provided the much enjoyed spa activities: Jean, Wilma, Vera and Bea and Lisa who did card making with us. And thank you ladies, who came out for the fun, relaxing weekend! We couldn't have done it without you!



Stay Tuned for another Weekend coming in the future!

(“Ponder”.)

their own lives. There were the week long “Learning Opportunities,” local and overseas. Youth Unlimited offered SERVE projects, a unique one being held right here in Ottawa. There were the dozen or so mission opportunities that came across my desk this past year; and, there was the week long Spring Break “Learning Opportunity” to Peru held by Calvin CRC. All in all, there was a great deal of ministry that went on this past summer, and for that matter this year-to-date. To God be the Glory!

Now that September is upon us, many more ministry opportunities are available to us. There are ample opportunities for you to use the gifts God has given you in the Kingdom. All you need to do is match your gifts with the ministry initiative being offered. Here’s a smattering of the ones in our Christian Reformed Community we call Calvin: Sunday School, GEMS, Boys Club, Freindship, Nursery, Ushers/Greeters, Fellowship and Outreach Committee, Ministry to Seniors, Youth Group, and more. Let’s not forget the ministry initiatives outside our walls like the Bible’s for Mission’s Store, Ottawa Inner City Ministries, Jericho Road, serving at Ottawa Christian School or Redeemer Christian High School, and the list goes on. *(Stay tuned for the publication of our “Calvin Initiatives Document for a more complete listing)*

“Carpe Diem” Seize the day! Take a moment and think about those who have gone before you to make a difference. Maybe it’s your mom or dad, or grandfather or grandmother. Maybe it’s a former Pastor or Youth Leader you know and respect. Maybe it’s one of your brothers or sisters who is now in Seminary or Bible College preparing for a life of ministry and/or missions. You plug in the person and the ministry opportunity. The common denominator is that their act of ministry has

hopefully been an inspiration that catapults you to want to aspire to greatness in the Kingdom.

Carpe Diem! Seize the Day! Make something of yourself. Do something for yourself, for God, and for others. How? Take advantage of at least one ministry opportunity this year.

If you are currently involved in something, may God be praised. If you are taking a year sabbatical because you have been very involved, enjoy this year off and get the rest you need. If you are not one of the above, maybe you should consider where you can make a difference in the Kingdom?

God has given each one of us at least one gift with which we can plunge into the exciting world of ministry. I repeat: God has given each one of us, yes, **even you**, at least one gift. Oh, and remember to not feel guilty for saying no to an opportunity that you know will not be one in which you feel comfortable with, or if you are already doing ministry. Fatigued, and/or burnt out Kingdom Workers may actually hinder Kingdom work.

So, as we enter into the 2010/2011 ministry year, it is my prayer that you are active in the Kingdom. It’s not too late to enter and there’s no age requirement. Go on, take the plunge. Carpe Diem. In doing so, you WILL be blessed, the church will be blessed, and the Gospel will be proclaimed in ways you never thought possible.

WANTED!

Volunteers Needed

- ⇒ Ushers: We are looking for more Ushers
- ⇒ Fellowship Committee: We are looking for 1 or 2 interested people
- ⇒ GEMS: We really need 1 or 2 more Counselors to help out
- ⇒ CHURCH SCHOOL: We need more teachers for Sunday mornings

MEET CALVIN'S CHURCH ADVOCATE FOR DISABILITY CONCERNS

Brenda recently took over the position of Church Advocate for Disability Concerns for Calvin Church from John. In this interview you'll learn more about her role and how you can contact her if you have any concerns or comments.

Q. As the Church Advocate for Disability Concerns can you tell me a little bit about your role?

A. In a nutshell, my role is to promote the full inclusion of persons with disabilities into the life of the church. This includes many areas of the church. For example, by ensuring people are able to physically get in church and move around. This means ensuring there are ramps, elevators, & spaces for people to be comfortable. For people with visual or hearing impairments it includes making sure they can hear and providing large-print literature so they can follow along in the service. For those with learning disabilities or mental illness it may include looking at ways to enhance their worship and fellowship. It also involves encouraging the entire church body to develop attitudes that welcome people with disabilities.



Q. How does your experience help you with this role?

A. I have been an active member of this church all my life. I have been involved with persons with disabilities through programs like Youth Unlimited's Special Needs SERVE and through my work as a Registered Nurse in the community. I have worked as a Parish Nurse in an Anglican church and as a community health nurse, caring for people of all ages from infants with severe disabilities to seniors and palliative patients.

Q. Is this program only at Calvin Church?

A. This program is an initiative of the CRC and RCA denominations. I am supported by a regional advocate, who in turn is supported by the staff of Disability Concerns. A few times a year you will receive the newsletter Breaking Barriers produced by Disability Concerns. They also plan conferences and publish books and other resources on disability concerns. You can find more information at

www.crcna.org/disability and www.rca.org/disability

Q. Why is this program important for Calvin?

A. By including all members, all people are able to utilize their God-given abilities and the life of the church is enriched. "Everybody belongs, Everybody serves"

Q. How can I contact you?

A. If you, or someone you know, has a disability, or if you have some ideas on how to make this a successful program at Calvin please let me know. You can call the church office at 613-225-2889 and request a phone contact. I would love to hear from you.

Written by Ed N:

Your consistory (the group of pastoral elders) has had an active year. Much of what we do is our regular and ongoing work: membership transfers in and out of Calvin, home visits and member contacts, reports from the worship committee and our prayer groups, reports from our two pastors and the Ministry Board, regular sermon evaluations and Sunday school visits, and participation in all the full-council activities; e.g. our fall retreat with the other elders and deacons.

This year, there were several special consistory tasks. We held a thorough evaluation of Ken's performance as our Senior Pastor. He came away with some areas to work on, but generally received positive reviews and supportive feedback. His extended professional development leave in January-March allowed him to re-tool and upgrade his preaching skills. Consistory had to prepare for his leave, support him during his studies, and perform extra tasks in his absence.

This year we decided to bring the older children up from Sunday school to be present during the Lord's supper celebrations, as part of their faith formation, and to encourage them to seek to participate. We also discussed and approved new guest preachers, some of whom served during pastor Ken's absence. In our meetings, we discussed other spiritual topics, such as the effectiveness of our elder visits. A highlight of the year is interviewing candidates for profession of faith. It is always a joy to talk with people eager to become full members here at Calvin.

At the end of the season we welcomed the recently elected pastoral elders: Joyce, Annet, Chris and Cathy. We thank them for their willingness to serve and our Lord for equipping them, and commend them to your prayers as they take up their duties this month. We also thank our retiring elders for their years of faithful service: Jake, Dorothy, Brian and Ed. Meanwhile Walter, Kathy, Bea,, and Gus will continue serving and provide continuity for the new consistory. Finally, we'd like to thank John who returned after his treatments last fall to serve as our recording secretary, and who is also now retiring.

Our monthly meetings include a time for small-group sharing, and prayer for each other and the congregation's needs. While being on consistory can sometimes seem a burden, serving as a pastoral elder is also an uplifting and rewarding experience, which brings us closer to the congregation, to each other, and God. When we open our hearts to serve Him, He molds and uses us in His kingdom work at Calvin, for His honour and kingdom. Soli Deo Gloria - glory to God alone!

JUST FOR FUN

The Best Way To Pray : A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said. "No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." "You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor." The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

Each year Classis sends two pastors and two elder delegates to synod. This year Calvin Elder Delegate Louise was privileged to attend. What follows are her impressions of attending:

This past June, I was privileged to be one of four delegates representing our Classis (Eastern Canada) at synod. Since you can read about all the hot topics and decisions in the most recent issue of *The Banner*, I'd like instead to tell you a little bit about my experience.

First, synod reminded me of my final year of high school and my first year of college. (Huh?!) Before you jump to conclusions, let me explain... In my last year of high school, I was editor of the yearbook. The yearbook company my school dealt with offered training for yearbook volunteers at Loyalist College in Belleville. I travelled there along with other volunteers from schools all over Ontario and Quebec, and in a few days, learned all there was to learn about yearbook editing. In college, I participated in a parliamentary simulation in Quebec City with college and university students from all over Quebec. It was a formal, 4-day long meeting, much like synod. These two experiences, combined with having represented Calvin at Classis twice in the last year, prepared me remarkably well for synod.

This year, synod was held at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, near Chicago. My fellow classis delegates and I, all first-time delegates at synod, were extremely well received. Turns out, about 60% of delegates to synod were first-timers! Everyone is welcoming and gracious, wants to know who you are, where you're from, what you do, etc. With roughly 200 people in attendance, there's always someone new to meet, right down to the last day, and I still didn't meet everyone! We shared all our meals together, sitting with a



different group of people each time and having great conversations. I even took advantage of the opportunity to play "Dutch Bingo." Not bad, for a French Canadian! (...albeit I played with Doug's family relations...)

Perhaps the most amazing part was this otherwise inconsequential event. A couple days before synod, I received an email asking about how to pronounce my last name. Jerry, Executive Director of the CRCNA, does roll call during the first plenary session of synod, and he wants to do it right. Needless to say, Dutch names are not a problem, but French names aren't especially common at synod. I had never been asked how to pronounce my name before (ahead of time), and I was touched by this thoughtful attention. I even got to meet Jerry, as well as others whose names and faces we commonly see in *The Banner*. It was really neat to meet these "real people" like you and I. I now take great pleasure in reading the "Punch Lines" submitted by George, whom I met at synod, and more seriously, I feel more connected with the work of the denomination.

Speaking of work, going to synod is quite a bit of work. There is lots of reading and preparation to do before hand, and then there is work in an advisory committee before the decisions are made on the floor of synod. Synod is not for the weak-of-heart when it comes to meetings. All in all, it's about 6 days of meetings beginning at 7am for breakfast and ending around 9pm. There is, unfortunately, no time for visiting or touring the city. (I'll have to return to Chicago with Doug to do that.) There is, however, time for "sports nights" after 9pm. (The week of synod followed the Chicago Blackhawks winning the Stanley Cup, and included the NBA finals and the beginning of the

(Continued on page 8, see "Synod")

Written by: **Eric and Nick:**

Our latest refugee, Adiam, has been in Canada for over a year now and is doing well. She has completed her first year of adult high school, has been working at Tim Hortons and attends an Eritrean Pentecostal Church. Adiam continues to live with her sister and brother-in-law, Lawra and Mussie, and their family, here in Ottawa. We are hoping that Adiam's 14-year-old daughter, Light, will soon be able to join her in Canada. Unfortunately, there have been some delays in processing the application. We are also seeking further information from Citizenship and Immigration (CIC) as to why Adiam's brother Yosief was not admitted to Canada. Yosief remains in Sudan.

In May, we submitted a new sponsorship application on behalf of Mussie's brother Mathewos (aged 41), who is applying for permanent residence as a refugee on the basis of harassment and imprisonment related to compulsory military service in Eritrea. Mathewos eventually escaped and fled to Sudan. As with Adiam, Mussie and a sister in Ottawa have agreed to assume most financial obligations (including housing) and to assist with Mathewos' settlement needs when he arrives in Canada.

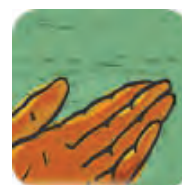
Some months ago, CRWRC informed us about an Ottawa family seeking assistance in sponsoring a 17-year-old niece currently living in

Cairo. Young Suzana fled with family members from Eritrea to Sudan because of religious persecution, ending up in Cairo, where Suzana now lives alone. The H family, heartsick at Suzana's plight, have pledged to house and support their niece, but require a CIC-recognized church or other organization to backstop the refugee application. Last week we forwarded the application to CRWRC for review.

Last week we also submitted a sponsorship application on behalf of Patrick's mother, who is now living in India and would like to come to Ottawa to be with her children.

All of the applications submitted through Calvin CRC are approved through CRWRC Canada (designated by CIC as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder) and the Calvin diaconate. The deacons have set aside funds for assistance, but additional offerings may be needed.

Please pray for Adiam, Light, Yosief, Mathewos and Suzana, Patrick's mother and their family members here in Ottawa. For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Nick, Chandra or Eric.



THINK ABOUT IT

- ⇒ A friend is, as it were, a second self!
- ⇒ You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old!
- ⇒ Never underestimate a child's ability to get into more trouble
- ⇒ Falling in love is easy, but staying in love is something very special
- ⇒ The fundamental job of a toddler is to RULE the universe!
- ⇒ Growing OLD is inevitable but growing UP is optional!
- ⇒ To the world you may be just one person, but to one person, you may just be the world!
- ⇒ The one thing children wear out faster than shoes is parents!

(“Synod”)

FIFA World Cup.) Having attended Carleton University, it never occurred to me that there would be no such thing as socializing over a beer after a hard day’s work. You see, Trinity, like most Christian academic institutions I hear, is a dry campus. And so I learned a little synod tradition. Delegates go off-campus for a “Canadian Bible Study,” which is synod-speak for “going for a beer.”

As a French Canadian, woman elder, first-time and (relatively) young delegate, I think I served the church and represented our Classis well. I had the honour of offering an opening prayer for one of the plenary sessions; I recited a verse for a song we were going to sing in French; I contributed to the debates and even ran amendments across the floor of synod for motions that were being considered. Perhaps the only awkward parts were when the subject of women in office was breached: first, when the protests against the seating of women delegates were read; second, when churches sought to move to a like-minded classis over the issue of women in office; and finally, when a classis asked synod to review the report presented to synod 2000 on the issue of women in office. None of these were personal in nature, and never did a delegate make me feel personally out-of-place during the week. However, I couldn’t help feel somewhat uncomfortable during these discussions.

On the whole, I found synod to be a wholesome and wonderful experience where God and his church were at the very centre. We prayed, we worshipped, we laughed, and we cried together. Relationships were formed, while others just picked up where they last left off. I would highly recommend the experience to others. As for me, I would participate again without hesitation!

Written by: Larry

In March 2010, Classis Eastern Canada (CEC) discussed a proposal for a CRC campus ministry to be established on the campus of the University of Ottawa. CEC endorsed the need and expressed strong support for the ministry concept. Discussion focused on ministry priorities and funding, particularly the current focus on church planting and missional community outreach. After much deliberation, CEC found a resolution that opened the possibility of capitalizing on the on-going fund set aside for church planting and allowed the proposal to move forward.

A Home Missions Chaplaincy Interim Committee began meeting in April to align the proposal with the requirements stipulated by CEC. After consulting with a number of campus ministers, the committee enlarged the concept of campus ministry to be more missional in orientation; that is, an incarnational (gospel) presence in the wider community, in addition to the campus, that is most visible through involvement in community-based activities and social justice initiatives. The ultimate goal of this concept of campus ministry (in addition to the traditional goals of integration of faith and learning, pastoral care and worship) is the creation of a Christian community that will foster the development of Christian leaders and develop strong missional ties with the community surrounding the campus. This revised proposal will be presented to the fall CEC meeting in October, 2010.

The proposal for campus ministry was discussed and supported in principle by Calvin CRC council and, subsequently, by the congregation at our April congregational meeting. Support for and commitment to this ministry by our congregation

(Continued on page 9 - See “Campus Ministry”)

On Sunday mornings from October–April parents and children in grades 6–12 have been gathering in the basement for a light breakfast and then some talking as family units over different Spiritual topics. This will be our third year conducting **Intergenerational Church School**. If you have a child(ren) entering grades 6 – 12 we invite you to come out with them for Intergenerational Student Educa-

tion Classes. **Here's the pertinent information you might be interested in:**

Time - Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 am. Coffee, Juice, muffins etc. will be served from 8:30 – 8:45 am.

Format – Through a facilitator, or your family unit, you and your child(ren) will discuss, explore, learn from each other, relevant Biblical truths as you interact together with different material. At times you will be discussing in groups of 4 – 6 or just with you and your child(ren).

Why – Having children of my own, I know that faith discussions between parents and children don't always happen naturally, or even often. Providing you and your child(ren) with some time together to discuss issues of faith will hopefully lead to a better understanding between you and he/she, and help in further discussions afterwards.

What – We will cover the following topics:

Session #1 - HC and Me – Last year we covered the first 13 Q and A's of the Catechism. This year we will use the book "HC and Me" to cover other Q and A's of the catechism

Session #2 - Discover God's Kingdom - During these four sessions, we will be discovering what it means to live as kingdom citizens in a world where Jesus is Lord. We'll be talking about how the things the world values are often very different from the things our Lord values. And we'll be challenging each other to live our faith in this upside-down kingdom!

Session #3 - 7 Deadly Sins – Part 1 - Sloth. Avarice. Vanity. What do they mean, and what do these archaic words have to do with today's teens? We will study the first set of deadly sins to help us think deeply about our spiritual life in today's world and how bad habits, attitudes, and our natural tendencies all hold us back.

Session #4 - 7 Deadly Sins – Part 2 – We'll finish off the rest of the deadly sins.

We hope you will consider coming out and that your family will benefit from discussing these various topics on faith and life issues.

Schedule – we will run four – 4 week sessions.

- a. **Session #1** - Oct 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14
- b. **Session #2** - Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19.
- c. **Session #3** – Jan 9, 16, 23, 30
- d. **Session #4** - Feb 13, 20, 27, Mar 6

("Campus Ministry")

proved to be strong. Ministry Board is currently considering the level of financial support and will bring a recommendation to the congregation for approval at the Fall congregational meeting. The other three CRC churches in Ottawa (Barrhaven, Calvary and Kanata) have also been asked to support this ministry. All three support this proposed ministry in principle and are currently considering the level of financial support that they

can commit. Other CRC churches in the western half of CEC will also be asked to support this ministry.

Please pray that CEC, at its October meeting, will be able to provide the necessary support to make this much-needed ministry a reality in Ottawa.

For more information, please feel free to contact Larry or the church office.



From August 27–29 several families and individuals from Calvin CRC travelled to Group Campsite #3 at Lac Philippe Park and spent the weekend enjoying the great outdoors and each other's company. It was a wonderful weekend filled with sun, hiking, beaching, evening campfires, and other great things. I met a happy cow



and happy milk, marveled at how Doug and Louise made almost no environmental imprint during their stay, was surprised at how little sleep Christine got during her weekend, and enjoyed the great time we had at the caves the beach, and during our campfire time. If you want to read more about these, and other interesting things, simply go to my blog and read about them at:

www.ronhosmar.blogspot.com



SPECIAL NEEDS SERVE—UPDATE

This past July, 15 participants, 22 mentors, as well as 70+ volunteers enjoyed another Special Needs SERVE week here at Calvin. This multi CRC sponsored ministry week saw us working in the city of Ottawa at various ministry locations, worshipping together in song, learning from our speaker Shellie Power, and having fun. This unique ministry has been such a blessing to those who have been part of it. We are hopeful that a site will be offered in Winnipeg for 2011, with Calvin taking a year off. For 2012, there is the possibility that we will have two sites being offered: Winnipeg and Ottawa.

We wanted to thank all those who volunteered their time, gave money, and prayerfully supported us this past July. Without YOU, this SERVE experience would not have happened. Here's what two moms said about this week:

"It has been wonderful to watch Kyle from afar. He was so excited to go and is already talking about next year. As a parent it is great to see our children have a place where they can meet others and be challenged in their walk with God. The special needs Serve is so important for these young adults. Thanks for the work"

Ron, thank you for staying up each night to update the blog during SERVE! We parents could 'spy from afar' and see how our kids were doing... We appreciate the hints for many conversations later! God is good! Wonderful last service- singing, participating, and LOTS of love shown all around. We are going to save lots of recycling for...Winnipeg!



This past summer our family took one month off for vacation. We travelled to my In-Law's cottage for a week, spending time with some of Joycegina's family for a bit, and then on our own. It was a nice week, complete with a bear trying to get into bear proof garbage cans in the middle of the night.

Next came a five hour drive to the other end of the province, spending a week at the Pinery Provincial Park. The weather was great, with great waves and nice sunsets. We took a 16 KM bike ride, and Katrina managed to do the whole thing. She was soooo tired, she slept for 1.5 hours right afterwards. A sister-in-law on Joycegina's side just also happened to be camping there too, and we were able to connect for a time. Near the end of the week we travelled to Sarnia and visited the place we spent 7.5 years doing ministry before moving to Ottawa. Some things had really changed, others seemed to be the same. We were even able to visit with a good friend from Sarnia for a few hours.

Upon returning home, I spent the next two weeks tackling my "to-do (a.k.a. "honey-please-do") list around the house. During my 10 am—10 pm working hours, I was able to paint three bedrooms three different shades of purple, reseal the driveway, paint the garage door and front doors, and clean out our crawl space and go down memory lane as I found pictures from years ago stuffed away in boxes. I was also able to replace some wood on my box trailer, repaint it, and clean up my work area in the garage. It felt good to get some things done that have been calling to me for a while, and to have all our children now sleeping in their own rooms.

Why do I share this with you? I know that many of you also spent time on vacation this summer, and I'd love to hear how yours went. If enough of you email your vacation memories, with a picture or two, I'll publish them in a Vacation Newsletter for the congregation so we can all become better informed about our summer experiences. Don't think that your experience is not worth sharing, because it is **your** experience. Even if you are retired, take some time to share what you did this summer with family and/or friends. I'd love to share Calvin's Vacation Experiences with all of us. Are you up for it? Simply email me a paragraph or two by the middle of October with one or two pictures. It's as easy as that. . .



Chris got his boating license this past March. He learned how to use Opa's boat.



Ron Painting Sarah's new Room. Dark purple....I hate dark colors....it was HOT!



Camping at the Pinery. An AMAZING Park.



Afternoon Potluck Lunch & Board Games

This past May the youth group offered a potluck lunch with games for those aged 55+. Though the turnout was small, those who came had a great time.

On Sunday, November 21st, we hope to offer this once again. If you are 55+, we would love for you to stay after church for some soup and buns, and then have some fun getting to know the younger ones in Calvin. Our Lofty Studies Group is invited to attend as well. We hope to see more of our 55+ out for this great intergenerational event.



Sunday, September 26

After AM Service

Fall Hike in the

Gatineau Hills

More information

will be forthcoming.

Sunday, November 7

Potluck dinner

Evening service

More information coming soon.

Calvin Christmas Dinner Party

If you are a member of Calvin church, or a regular visiting guest here, the Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to a Christmas Party that will take place at Calvin CRC on **Saturday, November 27th beginning at 6:30 PM.**

Why so early you ask? We are trying not to conflict with all the workplace Christmas Party events that go on in the month of December. Here are some facts you need to know:



- ⇒ It will be potluck style - bring a main dish and either an appetizer or dessert. (Please let Louise Boutin or Pastor Ron know which it will be so we can ensure we have balance.)
- ⇒ Refreshments (coffee and tea and Christmas juices) will be provided.
- ⇒ Bring a wrapped gift of \$5 or less per person for a fun game we'll be playing during the evening.
- ⇒ Please wear something green or red.
- ⇒ If you have children, please leave them at home with a trusted caregiver (unless you have a newborn and need to have him/her with you).
- ⇒ This evening is open to all Calvin members and regular attenders over the age of 14. We have been steadily expanding our age representation, and would love to continue to do this.

We hope you'll come out and take the time to fellowship together. If you know of friends who might want to come, by all means bring them along. We'd love to get to know them too. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Louise or Pastor Ron.

Sign up sheets will be coming out in early November, or you can R.S.V.P. to Pastor Ron Hosmar at youthpastor@calvincrc.ca or 613-225-2889 Ext 3.

Sunday, October 10

For those not going away for Thanksgiving, we'll host another potluck lunch after the AM service on Sunday.
All are welcome.

This past March several people from Calvin went on another Learning Opportunity to Peru. Some individuals journaled their experiences. These will soon be up on my blog, so stay tuned for when to go and look and read about how this event impacted their lives.

A small group of people have also been meeting to discuss issues that pertain to continuing to work alongside Gamaliel Church and Pastor Sergio. You will soon be receiving information on the history of how Peru trips began, what is happening at present, and opportunity for your input as to



YOUR PASTOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Many of the events of Calvin, whether they be youth, or congregational life, have been documented on Pastor Ron's blog. If you wish to know more about them, please grab a coffee/tea/juice, settle down and go to:

www.ronhosmar.blogspot.com

and read about the events and issues that might surround them. You will also find links to blog sites from our missionaries and others.

Enjoy!

In addition, Pastor Ken keeps us up to date via email with the week to week activities of Calvin, as well as thought provoking tidbits through his Pastor Ken's Notes, or PKN as they have come to be known.

what the future could look like as we continue to get to know each other's churches.

Those who have gone to Peru in the past will be getting together in September to reflect, remember, and pray for our brothers and sisters in Peru. Watch your church mailbox for information on Peru and how your input can be offered in this ministry area.

JUST FOR FUN

A Sermon Illustration gone very much wrong.....

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars:

- ⇒ The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.
- ⇒ The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.
- ⇒ The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.
- ⇒ The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

- ⇒ The first worm in alcohol - Dead
- ⇒ The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead
- ⇒ Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead
- ⇒ Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back. She quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms! "

That pretty much ended the service.

He has also started a blog (and he said he'd NEVER do that :))

If you have an email address and are not yet part of PKN, may I suggest that you send him an email at:

pastor@calvincrc.ca

and become a PKN fan. You'll be glad you did.

You say: 'It's impossible'	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: 'I'm too tired'	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: 'Nobody really loves me'	God says: I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)
You say: 'I can't go on'	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: 'I can't figure things out'	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
You say: 'I can't do it'	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: 'I'm not able'	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: 'It's not worth it'	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: 'I can't forgive myself'	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: 'I can't manage'	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: 'I'm afraid'	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: 'I'm not smart enough'	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: 'I feel all alone'	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)