



The Friendly News

Calvary Baptist Church



March & April 2017



The Pastor's Corner

“Our Story”

“The story depends upon every one of us to come into being. It needs us all, needs our remembering, understanding, and creating what we have heard together to keep on coming together into being.”

—Trinh T. Minh-ha

Every single person has a story to tell. In fact, we are walking and talking stories. Our behavior, thoughts, and actions are part of our stories. Some people keep journals of their day to day experiences, and many do not but still build on and expand their stories along the way, influenced by various values, beliefs, and situations. To write our stories for others to read would be a good thing and yet how meaningful would it be to sit together and share each other's stories finding new and loving ways to connect with other stories—stories of children in war torn countries, who have lost their parents, they themselves injured and traumatized, their eyes wide open, no longer having the capacity to cry, staring into nothing, families separated due to inhuman acts of terror? In what way may we connect our story to theirs, and walk the story together—the story of love, compassion, pain, suffering, justice and mercy?

Sometimes questions speak louder than answers; questions prompt our acts of justice and radical love. Hence, we may ask: Where did my story begin? Where would I begin? How many stories do I have? Which part of my story should I tell and why? Which part of my story continues to show me the way? Which part do I want to forget or undo? How is my story impacting others? The prominent anthropologist Michael Jackson sees storytelling “as a vital human strategy for sustaining a sense of agency in the face of disempowering circumstances.”



Despite much human goodness, we are surrounded by evil and are enmeshed in its atmosphere. We are no strangers to a cold, dark, unwelcoming and even frightening world. We are appalled at human intelligence and understanding confused even with the simplest task of distinguishing between good and evil, truth and lies. In such a scenario, we think about our stories and wonder, “whither are we bound?” As followers of Jesus, we respond to every situation in faith leaning on God’s promises of belonging, of new life, and God’s unending presence. We do not lose sight of our call to serve, and freedom to love God and neighbor. So, the bottom line is, “What is our story?”

Our shared story is the story of love that stirred God’s heart to lift prophetic voices who declared God’s compassion for the poor and powerless whose wellbeing have been threatened by injustice; love that sent Jesus to be incarnate in the world—love that is not just for those who look, think and believe the same way; love that stirred the early church to keep the doors open not only for their own but also for the outsiders, the destitute, and the discriminated against. More than ever, today, God’s love is lifting agentic voices to declare God’s compassion and justice for the oppressed and vulnerable, denouncing the powers that seek to exclude “the other.” God’s love includes all; embraces all. As we walk the Lenten journey, continuing to the Holy week, and looking forward to Easter day, may we think deeply about our personal story and our common story in Christ. Do we want to tell it?

“Jesus told the crowd all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing” (Matt. 13:34 NRSV).

—Atula



America For Christ Offering

During the month of March we will be collecting “America for Christ” (AFC) offering. The theme this year is “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities”. There is a special AFC mission offering envelope in our bulletins on Sunday for your use. Please, give generously to AFC this year and help train mission minded leaders for our church. Thank you.





Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time is the act of setting the clocks forward one hour from standard time during the summer months, and back again in the fall, in order to make better use of natural daylight. An easy way to remember is the saying “Spring

forward, fall back.” You set your clock forward in the spring (March 12, 2017, lose one hour) and back again in the fall (November 5, 2017, regain one hour).

Daylight Savings Time (DST) was first introduced in the United States in 1918 by President Woodrow Wilson. It was signed into law in order to support the war effort of World War I. President Wilson learned about it from a Pittsburg industrialist who encountered the idea in the UK, Robert Garland. Robert Garland is often known as “Father of Daylight Saving”.

The law was repealed seven months later, although a few cities continued to use it until in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted Daylight Savings Time year-round.

It is now used in over 70 countries worldwide.

Amazon



Remember to remind your friends to purchase their Amazon products by going to our web site. This is an easy way for you to help our church. The income through this means has decreased. If you use Smile our church receives less than when you use the account set up through our website: www.cbclowell.org. This is an easy way to increase the income to our church. Thank you!



Calvary Baptist Church in collaboration with our partner churches Christian Cambodian-American Voice of Peace, Lowell International Church, and New Life Cambodian Christian Church will launch a car wash program to raise funds for our roof project. The first two dates are March 26, and May 7. Please bring your cars to the church parking lot for a brand new look, and contribute toward a secure roof.



Spring Begins

On March 20, 2017 Spring begins here in the United States. The temperature rises, daylight lasts longer, the trees grow new leaves and the flowers begin to bud. All over the world people seem to be taking sighs of relief. We have made it through another winter. Here are some ways in which different cultures celebrate the arrival of Springtime.

Bulgaria—Baba Marta Day

Celebrated on the first day of March, in Bulgarian “Barba Marta” means “the grandmother of March”. The tale goes that she is a cranky old woman who must be treated nicely, or she will bestow more cold winter days. To welcome the upcoming Spring, Bulgarians wear “Martenisti” or red and white bracelets to symbolize health and fertility. They are often handed out to loved ones to wish them peace and happiness.

The Netherlands—Bloemencorso Bollenstreek

South Holland hosts a 12-hour long parade that travels from Noordwijk to Haarlem. The Flower Parade of the Bollenstreek is the only parade constructed of bulb flowers, like hyacinths, tulips and daffodils.

Bosnia—Cimburijada

Thousands congregate in Zenica, Bosnia for the “Festival of Scrambled Eggs” every March as Spring begins. The egg is a symbol of new life. Huge amounts of scrambled eggs are cooked in big pots, and then handed out for free.

Happenings



Sunday Worship **10:45am**

Calvary Baptist Church will observe Ash Wednesday on March 1, 2017 at 7pm.

There will be a five-part series of Lenten Meditations in the Friendship Room on Thursdays: March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 from 12-1pm. Please bring a bagged lunch.

April 9—Palm Sunday

April 13—Maundy Thursday

April 14—Good Friday

April 16—Easter Day

All church worship service will be held on April 30. International meal following worship on the church lawn. Please join us!





In The Community

Prescott Lodge dedication at Grotonwood—April 8, 2017. 189 Prescott St. Groton MA 01450.

Eighth Annual Asian American Mental Health Forum: Spinning Threads of Hope—9am-3pm Wednesday, May 10. Higgins University Center, Clark University, Worcester MA.

Exhibit—Shoes: Pleasure and Pain. Explore the creativity of footwear from around the globe through more than 300 pairs of shoes. Examples from famous shoe collectors are shown alongside a dazzling range of historic shoes. On view through March 12, 2017. Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm. Adults, \$20. Seniors, \$18. Students, \$12. Youth age 16 and younger and Salem residents, free. Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex Street, Salem MA.

Spring Bulb Show at Smith College—Northampton, MA. March 4, 2017-March 19, 2017. Fields of flowers in Holland, depicted through art. Come and experience the color and contrast of the vivid plots of bulbs against somber skies. 10:00am-4:00pm. Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10:00am-8:00pm. \$5/admission. Lyman Conservatory at Smith College, 16 College Lane Northampton, MA.



You're Invited



**Calvary Baptist
Church**

60 Hastings St.

Lowell MA

01851

10:45am

**Calvary Baptist
Church will
celebrate Easter Day
on April 16, 2017.
There will be
refreshments and
fellowship following
the service.**



March Birthdays

March 4—Catherine Niemi

March 5—Kim Seng

March 10—Adam Mignone

March 12—Jocelyn Strong

March 16—Emily Jean Breault

March 18—Ruth Porter

March 24— Sarah Bitegetsimana

March 29—John Tellier



April Birthdays

April 2—Zoe Noel

April 8—Garry Long

April 8—Emily Keth

April 9—Hazel Roper

April 12—Kayla Mone

April 13—Kelliann Burns

April 15—Brandon Chan

April 15—Maytriis Meas Pich

April 16—Phean Sar

April 24—Faye Roberts

April 28—Jonathan Pica

April 30—William Franks

**A very warm Happy
Birthday from all of us at
Calvary!**

*Please contact the church
office if we have missed
anyone.*

Calvary Baptist Church

60 Hastings St, Lowell, MA 01851



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A CARING CHURCH,
REACHING PEOPLE,
CHANGING LIVES

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