

THE REVIEW

FALL 2022



FIRST &
CALVARY



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A LETTER FROM SENIOR PASTOR DON EVERTS

BY DON EVERTS

Would you believe that our church newsletter, The Review, has been in publication for 92 years? Robin Jaques, our Communications Coordinator, told me this recently and I was simultaneously surprised and thrilled. Surprised, because church newsletters rarely have such a long and impressive run. Thrilled, because this gives testimony to the long and faithful history of ministry here at First & Calvary. God has been so faithful to us that we have had that much great news to report!

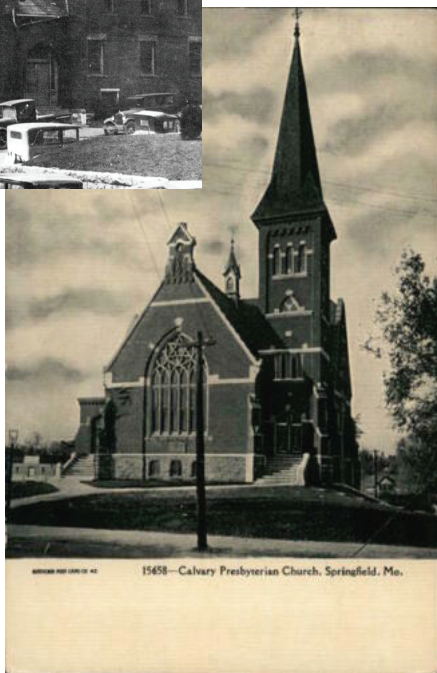
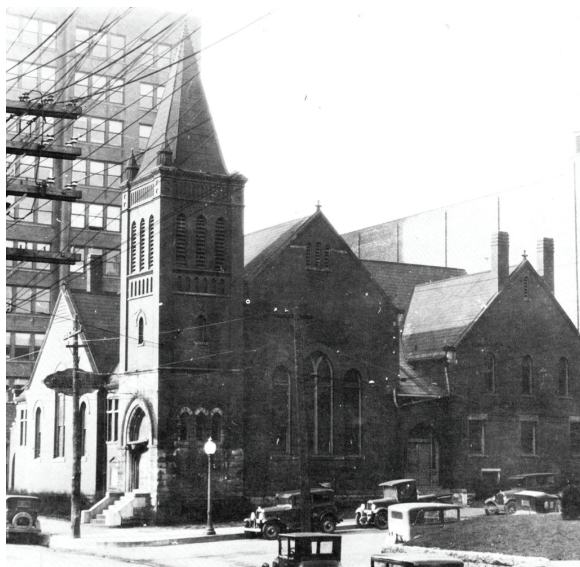


Now that we are in our 92nd year of publication we are moving to a new season in the life of The Review. As you are probably aware, since early 2020 The Review has been a digital-only monthly resource that has served as a source of details and updates about what is coming next in the life of our church. Since our Weekly Update emails accomplish this same task, and because activities and the life of the church are starting to pick up again, we are shifting The Review to be a quarterly print publication that tells the exciting, touching, important stories of what God is up to here at First & Calvary.

Starting in August 2022, you will have a beautiful print edition of The Review coming to your

mailbox. Inside it you will find one thing: stories. Stories of life-change. Stories of our church making a difference in the community. Stories of lives well-lived. Stories, at the end of the day, of God's faithfulness. May glory go to God through this new season of The Review! If you have ideas for future stories, contact Robin in the church office.

Don Evick



WELCOMING NEW STAFF TO FIRST AND CALVARY!

BY ROBIN JAQUES

The year 2022 has been a time of growth for the staff of First and Calvary Presbyterian Church. Robin Jaques began working as the Communications Coordinator, tasked primarily with managing the weekly email and creating the new quarterly Review along with ad hoc projects and copy for church signage. In March, Reverend Cooper McWhirter accepted the position of Minister of Pastoral Care, working with the home-bound, those in the hospital, and performing funerals and comforting the bereaved. In early June Wendy Everts joined the staff as a contractor, serving as the new Minister of Outreach, helping build bridges to new people and strengthen our witness. Later that month, Steve Young came on board as the Director of Operations and hit the ground running supervising the office and maintenance staff, overseeing the repairs and maintenance of the physical facility, and in general, maintaining all the moveable parts of a large enterprise like ours. During that time new custodial staff were hired, Eric Carden and Brenda Weber, and Spencer Busch was promoted to Lead Custodian. Late in June, Jamie Swope accepted the position of Associate Minister, reporting to Head Pastor Don Everts. She will officially start work the first week in August 2022.



ROBIN JAQUES
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



REV. COOPER MCWHIRTER
MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE



WENDY EVERTS
MINISTER OF OUTREACH



STEVE YOUNG
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



SPENCER BUSCH
LEAD CUSTODIAN



ERIC CARDEN
CUSTODIAN



JAMIE SWOPE
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

DUNAMIS PROJECT HOSTED AT FIRST AND CALVARY THIS YEAR

BY ROBIN JAQUES

On Wednesday, March 2nd, First and Calvary hosted the three-day Dunamis Project Gateways program. The Gateway's program is part of the Dunamis Project created by the Presbyterian-Reformed Ministries International to guide individuals to a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through a greater understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit's work. Wendy Everts served as F & C liaison to Tom Wilcox who led the course.

The course teaches through a blend of systematic, biblical teaching, open discussion, and practical experience. The teaching flows from a stream that goes back to R.A. Torrey in the United States and his grandson, Archer Torrey, an Anglican priest who served in Korea.

First & Calvary will host the next program in the series this fall. The Gateway's program is essential for all subsequent Dunamis programs; therefore, we recommend that those who could not attend the first in the series wait for it to be offered again at F & C. Dates for the Dunamis project will be announced as they become available.

Who would benefit from attending the spiritual retreats offered as a part of the Dunamis Project? According to PRMI, "any individual who seeks to grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit, who ministers to others and is open to the power of the Holy Spirit can benefit from the training."

If you want more information or have questions, don't hesitate to contact Wendy Everts.

“The Dunamis workshops have been instrumental in opening my eyes to the power of prayer and of the Holy Spirit. I look forward to the next one.” - Kiki Eldridge

“The Holy Spirit has been the most complicated to understand of the Trinity. Dunamis highlighted scriptures I have read before but had not truly absorbed; the power of the Holy Spirit living within me available through faith for serving His Kingdom.” -Shari Gerke



“DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS” AND THE GIFT EXCHANGE

BY ROBIN JAQUES



In April 2022, Pastor Don Everts’ book “Discover Your Gifts” was published. The book challenges us to identify the unique practical gifts that God has entrusted to us. When we say “practical,” we mean those common, creative gifts such as cooking, writing, organizing oneself or others, arts such as painting, writing, dance, or any of hundreds of skills, crafts, or handicrafts.

In the foreword to the book, Savannah Kimberlin, Director of Research Solutions at Barn Group, writes, “I learned about my own gifts and about the collective power

gifts can bring to a community when they’re truly understood, activated, and celebrated.”

On May 1st, 2022, Pastor Don Everts began a five-week sermon series on the common gifts that God provides to all of us. The series was the natural fruit of Don’s two-year research and writing on how God provides gifts and how we view and use those gifts for the benefit of God and the community.

The book and sermon series gave birth to a unique program at First & Calvary called the Gift Exchange in which leaders, deacons, and



elders of the church could post a need for volunteers while congregants in the church could post a description of their specific gifts such as sewing, making miniatures, writing, babysitting, and carpentry, or of their gifts of temperament such as patience, love of children, a desire to be useful or love of prayer, to name just a few. The elders, congregants, and staff would then review the “gifts” posted by congregants and match them to their needs, contacting the gift donor to accept their help.

What began as an experimental program has proven to be an efficient and effective way to tap into the unique gifts of those who attend First and Calvary and to involve them in the work of the church while providing an opportunity for fellowship.

There is no time limit to offering your own gifts to the church family. To fill out an “offering gifts” balloon, visit the Gift Exchange board in the North atrium, or scan the QR code below to fill out a virtual balloon online. If you need help filling one out, in-person or online, contact Robin Jaques in the church office at 417-862-5068.



2022 YOUTH CHOIR TRIP RECAP

BY TYLER HECKMAN

Dear Friends,

On the Youth Choir tour this summer, we embraced our gifts in not only singing, but also playing instruments, dancing, and creating art. The eight youth and chaperones loaded a van with half a dozen instruments early on Monday, June 13, and headed on a journey that took us through Kansas City, Lawrence, and Boulder, all the way to Estes Park.

Our first stop was in Lawrence, for a night of worship with a fellow praise band at a local church. We shared a meal that they so graciously prepared for us (delicious BBQ!) and then took turns leading each other in worship.

The next day we got up early and drove to Estes. The beautiful YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park was so memorable, with a breathtaking hike on Bible Point Trail, tons of activities in the craft hall, archery, and a campfire. We met so many people there who were curious about our trip and had similar experiences to share. We had powerful encounters with fellow believers from all over the U.S., including Springfield and Missouri!

We were blessed to be able to stay with friends of the Everts' in Boulder on our way back home. Stan and Sally had us all over in the evening for some deep conversation and another night of worship. I'll never forget busting out the violins and guitars and praising God together, all seated around a living room table. It was such a sweet night.

In addition to worship, the thread throughout our whole trip was working through a devotional that Faith Zimmer, our Interim Director of Youth, prepared for the group. The theme of the devotional was "Finding Your Secret Place with God." It was great getting to explore what scripture has to say about this with the youth

in the mornings before breakfast and in the evenings before bed.

I'm amazed at the incredible faith that our youth have. It was such a blessing to see them grow throughout the week through their devotionals and worship. We mentioned that we expressed our worship through singing, playing, and dancing this year, but we also had one youth who expressed herself through her art. She created this piece based on the devotional and wanted to share it with the congregation.

I am thankful that First & Calvary is a place where youth are lifted up and encouraged in their walk with Christ. I am grateful that they chose to share their stories with us for a week. I look forward to pouring into more youth in the coming year as we continue growing as a church, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us as we continue seeking Him.

In Christ,

Tyler Heckman
Director of Music



SEE PAGES 14-17 FOR IMAGES OF THE TRIP







ELEVATION:
8615 FT.





MISSION COMMITTEE

ANNOUNCED MISSION PARTNERS

BY ROBIN JAQUES

Determining which organizations, both locally and internationally, to support is the overarching mission of the Missions Committee. For 2022, The Missions Committee has selected nine national/international organizations and fourteen local partners who will receive assistance from F&C.

National/International Organizations selected are:

1. Antioch Partners
2. Bethlehem Bible College
3. Canaan Christian Community (Haiti)
4. Convoy of Hope
5. Hosean International Ministry (Haiti)
6. Operation Christmas Child
7. Outreach Foundation (Iran)
8. Rainbow Network/La Pita Community
9. Field of Dreams (Uganda)

In addition, the following local partners have been named as recipients of assistance from First & Calvary Church:

1. Bridges for Youth
2. Center City Christian Outreach/Well of Life
3. Council of Churches/Safe to Sleep/Crosslines
4. Fellowship of Christian Athletes
5. Harmony House
6. Jarrett Middle School
7. Missouri Veterans Home, Mt. Vernon, MO
8. MSU/Bear Pantry/Student Welcome
9. Ozarks Food Harvest
10. Potter's House
11. Project Hope (MSU International Students)

12. Salvation Army
13. The Kitchen
14. Victory Mission

Many of the organizations selected have been recipients of assistance from First & Calvary for many years. First & Calvary was a founding member of the Council of Churches, has aided Well of Life for over a decade, has partnered with Jarrett Middle School for more than a dozen years, and has a long history of supporting the local Salvation Army, The Kitchen, and the Victory Mission.

In addition to providing financial assistance, this year, in concert with the Gift Exchange program, congregants have been asked to use their common gifts in support of the local partners in the form of donations of items useful to the organizations and the gift of their volunteer time. Missions Committee Chairwoman Catherine Clippard encourages anyone interested in offering their gifts to contact her by calling the church office at 417-862-5068.



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