



The Messenger

Ministry in the Year of 2020
September 2020



Lending a Helping Hand



Bill Ponikvar, Pat Hagen, Rick Chapman, and Gordon Pelton pose as they drop off food donations at Jewish Family Service. The Men's Group Food Drive collected enough donations to fill six utility carts.

By Alice Horner Nelson

It was a bright Saturday morning in July. The Calvary parking lot that had been empty for months now had church members milling around at a safe distance.

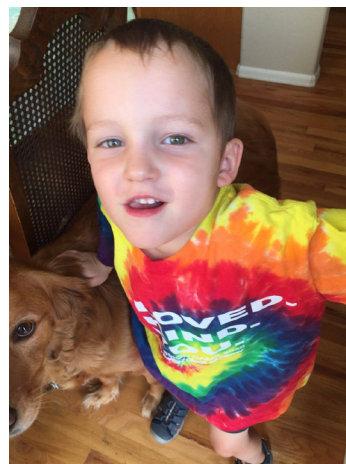
Calvary members who hadn't seen one another in several months waved hi as they pulled up in their car while Men's Group members unloaded food items. It felt a bit surreal to be around everyone after weeks of quarantine. For thirty minutes, it felt

continued on page 6 & 7

Despite COVID Restrictions, Vacation Bible School Still a Blast



Above: Henry (11), Charlie (8), and Abigail (2) Stanley ready for virtual VBS. Below: Gavin Morel (left) and Adelaide Leonard (right) shows off their VBS shirts.



more photos on page 9

Celebrations During The Time of COVID-19

by Pat Hagen

Many Calvary members have experienced celebrations and loss during this time. Due to length restrictions we are unable to name all of them and apologize in advance.

As we sat watching the commencement ceremonies for our son's graduation from the DePaul University Theater School, I realized that we would definitely remember this more than any other graduation. Even though it was much shorter than the typical graduation, the speeches by the Dean, Valedictorian, and guest speaker, Joe Keeley (an actor in Stranger Things) all seemed to speak volumes about the future world for our youth who were eager to step into the real world. Each student had a slide devoted to them with a photo and favorite quote or thank you.

Afterwards, we had a Zoom graduation with all of our relatives across the country from New York to Spokane with much laughter and a guest video by my brother's family featuring "School's out for Summer/Forever." If only we could have hugged Jack that day in his cap and gown. But we are lucky for Jack soon flew home and will be spending this year earning money to move to LA for a career in film.

Calvary celebrated the graduation of both high school and college students with a parade of eight cars caravanning across the city to eight students homes. Led by Pastor Morgan, students were surprised by honking and signs outside their homes. Other high schools celebrated with parades and socially distanced graduations. Summit County graduates actually received their diplomas at the top of Copper Mountains chairlift.

Unfortunately this virus has kept many from celebrating the significant events in our lives as well as mourning the loss of loved ones. Babies have been born including Rachel and Shu Chang's son on May 22 as well as Morgan and Ian's son Julian born on February 20. While Shu's family is in Denver, Rachel's parents made the personal decision to come visit the new baby in June from North Carolina. Rachel's friends and

family made a "Blessing Way" video before the birth with each person sharing a reading about motherhood and blessings. Rachel treasures this video and can refer back to it on those trying days. Another Chinese celebration coming up for Teddy is the 100 day birthday which will occur in August. This ritual involves shaving the baby's hair as a sign of rejuvenation, and gift giving in the form on gold jewelry as a portent of good fortune and prosperity. This tradition started many years ago when babies often did not make it through the first three months. Baby dedications will take place for both babies at a later date.

The Leonard family has had many special occasions to celebrate during COVID. Son Josh and Milena Viana were married in Las Vegas on March 15- the day before the shutdown. Mimi and son Jared were able to attend although Milena's family from El Salvador could not due to closed borders. A "Socially Distanced" Colorado Baby Shower was held on Father's Day in the Leonard's backyard for Josh and his wife who are the now the proud parents of Christian Jared Leonard. Angela graduated in May with an Early Childhood Degree and got a job as a co-teacher at Treasureland Preschool. Mimi Leonard retired after 33 years with the Littleton Public School System. Her teachers who reported to her in her position as coordinator for Career and Technical Education held a drive-by parade in May to honor and thank her. And over the 4th of July, many of the extended Leonard family celebrated our Independence Day at their family's cabin in Granby, complete with masks and social distancing.

Weddings have been postponed or taken place. My friend's daughter's wedding was scheduled for June and was rescheduled for the weekend of August 8. Due to social distancing, the family had to uninvite 50 guests, of which I was one.

Too many of our loved ones have passed away. John Pipe, Carol Willard's husband, died on March 17th right as the pandemic started. Due to uncertainty and restrictions, his interment service was June 20th when all of his children and grandchildren could be in attendance. Held in the Calvary Courtyard, the service was for both

VIP Gift Trivia

by Rev. Mary Hulst

Calvary is blessed with 41 faithful, courageous, resilient, strong and very delightful members that we know as our VIPs (Very Inspiring People).

These are folks who have been home bound (before Covid happened) or are living in care facilities, or dealing with ongoing chronic health issues. In a sense we all feel confined during these days of Covid 19, but for many of the VIP's there is a much more isolating confinement. It seemed in June like a good idea to prepare a bag of treats to drop off and let folks know they were loved, prayed for and not forgotten. The treat bag consisted of homemade banana muffins and homemade applesauce.

After trials with Delicious, Honey Crisp and Gala apples, Gala were selected as the best for the project.

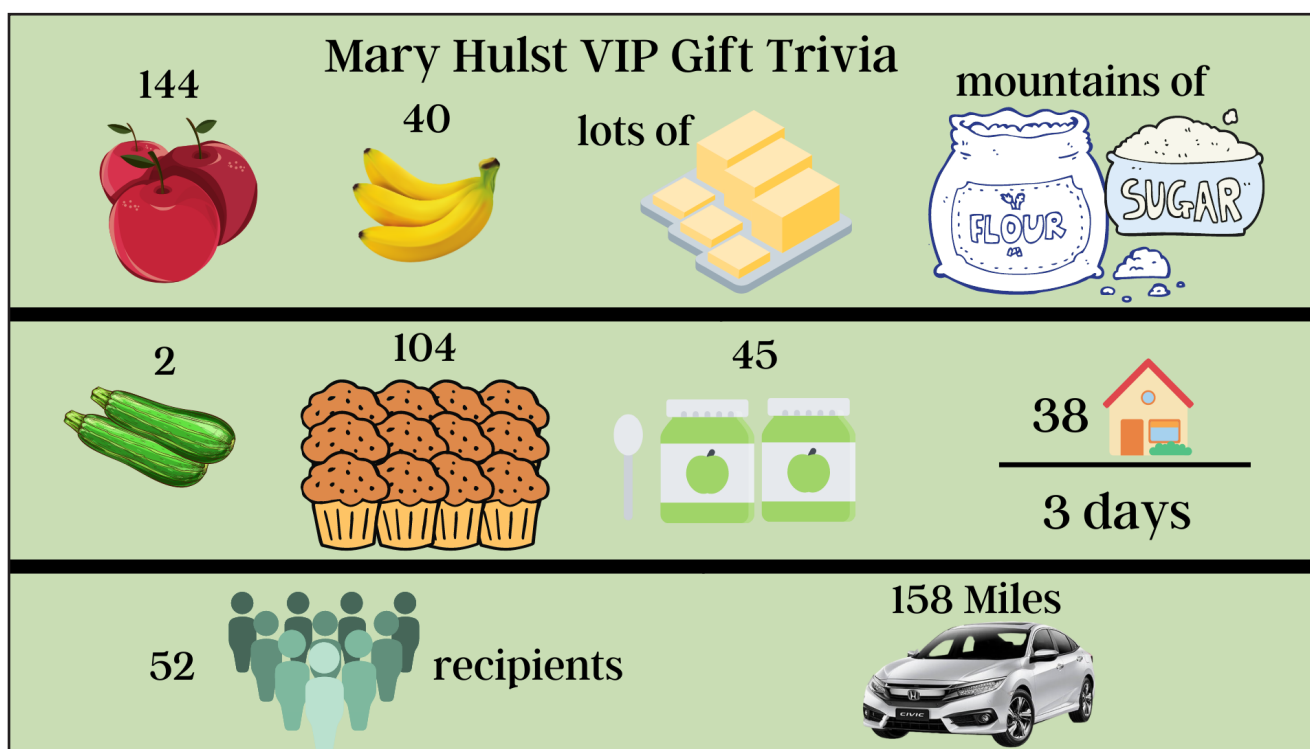
Bananas did not require the same large number to produce enough muffins, but it was always tricky to find them ripe enough or judge the right time to buy with the anticipation of when they would be ready for cooking.

Counting the VIP's was easy, but it was important to add others in the household.

Here are the treat stats:

- 144 apples
- 40 bananas
- a ton of butter
- mountains of flour and sugar and a small mound of cinnamon
- 2 healthy sized zucchini for the last day of baking and delivery when i ran out of banana muffins and could find no ripe bananas to make that last batch
- 104 muffins baked
- 45 jars of applesauce created
- 38 stops over 3 days of delivery-it was possible to visit at a distance with a number of folks at a front door.
- 52 people were included in these stops-several were added who had experienced recent losses
- 158 miles in my little Honda Civic

It all adds up to great love for these good people and a project that I took GREAT DELIGHT and JOY in doing.



Stewardship at Calvary

By John Kron, Stewardship Committee Chair

It was a blessing to be able to worship together in the east parking lot on Tuesday evening, July 21. Those of us who gathered experienced a unique time of fellowship. There was the fact that we were sitting in our own lawn chairs, or camp chairs, or folding chairs, carefully distanced by the chalked crosses on the pavement. Our mask-muffled humming substituted for full-on singing. Communion was shared with individual pre-packaged wafer and juice cups. But we were together, and it felt very good.

One element I missed, however, was the offering. Last year the Stewardship Committee introduced "Moments of Gratitude" to lead into the time of offering. While gratitude was present in abundance on that July evening, the chance to respond in gratitude was not. The reason was obvious - the passing of collection plates, or even the filing up to a central collection box would have flown in the face of the measures put in place to assure social distancing. Still I missed the time of offering.

For me, that is a time to reflect on all that God has given me. It is a time to acknowledge His generous mercy in my life, the abundant ways He has blessed me, materially, creatively, intellectually, spiritually. And it provides me with a quiet space where I can consider what I can do to thank Him for His generosity, to give back in a meaningful way.

I love giving to Calvary Baptist Church. I know that my gifts are appreciated, and I know that they are used to sustain our facility, our ministries, and our missions. During this time of physical separation and virtual gathering, I feel as much as ever the need to thank God through my offerings. By sustaining the church, we are sustaining one another.

As the Stewardship Committee begins considering adaptive and creative ways to hold a virtual, socially-distanced stewardship campaign this fall, I hope you will join me in maintaining and fulfilling your commitment to this church, in faith and in gratitude. Thanks be to God.

Celebrations, Continued

John and his mother Joe Miller. John's ashes were distributed into the Welsh mugs, which John had collected over the years and then given to family members. They then poured the ashes along with Joe's into the Common Urn and kept the mugs as a remembrance. After Pastor Anne memorialized both John and Joe, Brenda Goodman played a trumpet solo to end the service. John was a huge punster and his children inherited his talent with his son Tim asking "What would Dad say today? I just made an ash of myself."

Afterwards, the family went to a park for an outdoor picnic and time to remember John and his mother. Social distancing and masks were worn by all. John's daughter, Gwen also took some of his ashes and scattered them at Yankee

Boy Basin, fulfilling his wishes.

As many of you know, Bootstraps has been suspended at the time of writing, but I did receive some great news that Nick and Christina, the couple experiencing homelessness who had lived in storage units, are both in sober living and doing well. Regardless of the pandemic, life goes on and we humans will find ways to recognize and remember the highlights. Although I have the feeling when this is over, there is going to be a lot of "celebrating."

Have a Faith Resource or Practice That You Love? Share It With the Calvary Community!

Visit our faith formation blog post by clicking on the Faith Formation Opportunities button on our home page (www.calvarydenver.org, or if reading this issue electronically, [click here](#)) or by typing in <https://calvarydenver.org/news/2020/05/10/faith-formation-community> in your internet browser to view updated resources from the Calvary community and Pastor Morgan (email: mfletcher@calvarydenver.org).



THE ITEMS LISTED ON THIS BLOG POST COME FROM CALVARY MEMBERS WHO ARE SHARING HOW THEY ARE ENGAGING THEIR FAITH DURING THESE TIMES OF SOCIAL DISTANCING. WE HOPE YOU'LL TELL US HOW YOU ARE ENGAGING YOUR FAITH BY SHARING A RESOURCE OTHERS CAN TAKE PART IN.

**EMAIL PASTOR MORGAN WITH YOUR
RESOURCE/PRACTICE**

A Follow-Up to Our Sabbath Curriculum: Discernment (Available on Our Website)

*Sinking to the
roots of Sabbath*

**DISCERNING
SABBATH TIME IN
OUR LIVES TODAY**

- *St. Ignatius Eight Stages*
- *Wesleyan Quadrilateral*
- *Quaker Clearness Committee*
- *Ignatian Examen*

Practices to help explore how Sabbath manifests in our lives. View study on our website

6 Lending a Helping Hand, continued

like we weren't living in a pandemic.

The Calvary Men's Group had organized a food drive for Jewish Family Service (JFS), one of Calvary's mission partners that is down the street at the corner of Tamarac and Eastman. JFS was founded in 1872, and is a nonsectarian, nonprofit human services agency serving metro Denver and Boulder. The food drive was advertised to the church community and the neighborhood on NextDoor, and the Men's Group was amazed at the neighborhood contribution. The four C's were collected: canned fruit, canned protein, cereal, and canned soups. By the time I arrived three hours in, a large pile of donations had taken over the sidewalk.

Recently I had the pleasure to talk to Aubrey and Kay Knight, who have been regular volunteers at JFS for fourteen years.

Because of the pandemic, Kay and Aubrey haven't been able to volunteer in their normal capacity, and they miss it very much. Pre-pandemic, they volunteered every Friday at JFS from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., each with different duties. They estimate they've logged three thousand, seven hundred, and sixty four hours.

Kay usually works at the front desk, checking people in and using the computer system. Aubrey would help keep the grocery store in JFS organized, and noted that clients loved being able to shop for their own food and feel a sense of normal. Aubrey used to drive the truck to the different grocery stores to pick up their surpluses of food. Stores like King Soopers, Safeway, Whole Foods, and Trader Joes contribute their excess items. Their main supplier is the Food bank of the Rockies.

Aubrey says that work at JFS is "very satisfying because you feel like you are helping people that needed help. I've never been in their position before, and those people are so grateful, and in turn I was grateful to be able to do something," said Aubrey.

"Sometimes I felt like I got more out of it than the clients did," said Kay.

Both Kay and Aubrey were awestruck with clients' gratitude. "I found the ones that need the most are the most giving. This one lady wanted to say thank you to me, and she dug around in her purse and pulled out this cookie she had been

saving, and gave it to me. And another lady gave me some eyeshadow."

"Sometimes they just want a hug," said Aubrey.

Kay said their experience volunteering at JFS has taught her a lot. "It helped me not to judge as much. You never know someone's whole story," said Kay. "I checked people in up front to certify them, so I had to ask a lot of questions. You can't just judge because they are experiencing homelessness, you never know their whole story. I get upset when I hear people say, 'they shouldn't receive food stamps, they should just work.' Well, no, sometimes they can't. You don't know what their situation is."

Kay said that their experience at JFS has really opened their eyes to different cultures as well.

"We served a large Russian and Jewish community, as well as a large Muslim and Spanish community" said Kay. "We wish we knew how to speak other languages," Aubrey said.

Despite the name "Jewish" in JFS, the volunteers range widely in denomination of religion. Her experience working with people of different faiths reinforced her belief that faiths working together benefits everyone. "There is a God and everyone seeks God in a different way," Kay said.

For anyone considering volunteering, Kay and Aubrey recommend it wholeheartedly.

"You can always make time for volunteering, because you make your own hours. You just have to jump in," said Kay.

"We started volunteering, and we just fell in love with it," Aubrey said.

Jewish Family Service does a lot of good in our neighborhood, and Calvary was happy to help contribute to their ministry. Looking on their website, I found the Jewish values that guide the organization, and I loved reading them:

- He who saves one life saves the entire world. – Pikuah Nefesh
- Social justice, the obligation to act justly toward people in need. –Tzedakah
- Acts of loving kindness. – G'milut Hasadim
- Every human being is equal in the eyes of God. – Tselem Elohim
- The act of mending the heart. – Tikkun HaLev

May we all strive for those same values in our actions everyday.



The Men's Group next to the food donations. From left to right: Jim Comstock, Bill Ponikvar, David Peterson, Dave Crane, Walter Rowell, Mick Davey, Rick Chapman, Gordon Pelton, and Virg Musil.



Dave Crane doing the hardest job of handling coffee and donuts.

Right; Aubrey and Kay Knight who have been volunteers at JFS for fourteen years. Aubrey holds the Max Frankel Volunteer of the Year award they received in 2012. It reads: 'All those who faithfully occupy themselves with the needs of the community will be blessed and rewarded by God.'



Vacation Bible School Pictures



Left: Henry (11), Charlie (8), and Abigail (2) Stanley follow Pastor Anne's yoga instruction video for VBS. Below: Ms. Angela put together personalized kits for each child including supplies and fun treats that parents picked up on the Saturday before. Parents were sent a link each day with videos.

Below: Abigail Stanley follows along with a craft video recorded by Ms. Angela.

Bottom right: Henry, Charlie and Abigail use their VBS craft kits to follow along to a lesson with Ms. Angela.



Tell Us: What Has The Pandemic Taught You?



That knowing what I can get done in a day isn't guided solely by my to-do list and that is okay. Leaning into grace and giving grace is a true life source.

-Rev. Morgan C. Fletcher



That elections have consequences. VOTE!

-Denise Lanning



The pandemic has reminded me

1) of the importance of pacing myself and living in the moment, 2) that God has given us the gifts of creativity and flexibility to help us adapt and handle change, and 3) that gratitude and grief exist simultaneously.

-Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro



The COVID-19 pandemic has taught me how deeply connected we are. I truly believe we are spiritually connected, even if we don't live at that level of awareness, but this virus has shown how physically connected we are too, in spite of our desire for unfettered individualism and freedom.

-Dr. David Farwig



I can happily get by without a lot of stuff. Empty grocery shelves and locked-down stores just fueled my creativity.

-Rev. Mary Hulst



I have been thinking about this quote a lot recently from The Power in Purpose podcast: "We will get through this by seeing every challenge as an opportunity to better serve others. It starts with accepting that the world is bigger than what's right in front of us." -

Angela Leonard

A Blast from the Past

How many Calvary members can you identify in this staff photo from August 1996? (Answers on page 11)



SMALL GROUPS- COVID STYLE

- The Calvary Scrapbooking groups meets social-distanced style in Becky Worford's backyard in the September heat.

Front center: Deanna Geldens. Right: Becky Worford. Back: Pat Crile. Left: Debbie Rohrer.



Birthday Fun!



If you'd like a longer list of birthdays, please email Pastor Alice.

September

Juoi A. Tuom -02
 Tut Wang - 02
 Harry Crandall - 03
 Nyamal Tuom - 03
 Jada Walker - 03
 Cori Wylde - 03
 Kristina Adams - 04
 Ashley Peart - 04
 Nyabuath Tuom- 04
 Sarah Davey - 05
 Chelsea Bain - 06
 Connie Hulst - 06
 Patty Dube - 07
 Jack Hagen - 08
 Krysta Baglien - 09
 Joann Bowes - 09
 Larry Jenks - 09
 Linnea Nigro - 09
 Janet Savage -10
 Mike Abell - 11
 Kate Gibbs - 11
 Nolan Padworski - 11
 Susan Wirt -11
 Carol Howe - 12
 Geraldine Saunders-Cooks -13
 Chuck Newcom -14
 Drema Doolittle -15
 Sean Friend - 15
 Ron Johnson - 16
 Gregg Blew -17
 Ian Fletcher -17
 Christopher Jonell -17
 Mary Hulst -18
 Jeffrey Whitaker -18
 Del Walker -19
 Alice Ormiston -21
 Daniel Schweissing -22

Linda Fischer - 23
 Nina Hammon Jahn - 24
 Lorri Burck - 25
 Tim Bessey - 26
 Alex Jonell - 26
 Travis McManemon - 26
 Marlys Marshall - 27
 Delores Moore - 28
 Maia Yarrington - 28
 Jessica Michel - 30

October

Delores Bowermaster - 01
 Libby Johnson - 01
 Edythe Berglund - 02
 Steve Brooks - 02
 Anne Michel - 03
 Jon Mikesell -03
 Robyn Warren - 04
 Betty Goding - 05
 Cory Crile -08
 Pat Hagen - 08
 Ashley Wylde -09
 Room Bile - 13
 Joshua Randle - 13
 Andrew Daugherty - 15
 Jill Newhouse -15
 Tom Schneider - 15
 Eric Schneider - 15
 Babette Tsao - 19
 Norma Briola - 20
 David Yarrington - 20
 Jeff Savage - 24
 Samuel Honeycutt - 25
 Denise Wylde - 25
 Kellona Bain-Burke - 26
 Taylor Goodman -26
 Dheevena Bachu - 29

Kyle Hartley - 29
 Jim Comstock - 30
 Kim Lenz - 30

November

Jeanine Crane - 01
 Larry Higgins - 03
 Deborah Rohrer - 03
 Debil Bile -04
 Esther Adelgren - 05
 Harriet Ralston - 05
 Rebecca Baird - 06
 Mike Hammon Jahn - 07
 Peter Sjoberg - 08
 Janaya Hurst - 09
 Kreg Brown - 10
 Earlene Ramay - 10
 Steve Hagen -11
 Bennie Williams - 13
 Megan Adams -16
 Jessica Milton - 16
 Clarence Milton, Jr. - 16
 Chip Newcom - 17
 Chudier Tuom - 17
 Marvel Fisher -18
 Phil Haas - 18
 Abigail Goodrum - 21
 Sherry Peterson - 21
 Anne Scalfaro - 23
 Margene Hamilton - 24
 Owen Honeycutt - 24
 Matt Nelson - 24
 Matt Ponikvar - 25
 Nathan Goodman - 26
 Nyahok Bile - 28
 Christopher Honeker - 28
 Giselle Umutoni - 30

Answers:

Row 1: Nancy Johnson, Secretary; Mary Hulst, Senior Pastor; Richard Salcedo, Church Administrator
 Row 2: Linda Fischer, Samaritan Center counselor; Sandra Baldrige, Director of Elder Care, John Ddamulira, Custodian, Ann Cline, Office Manager, Elisha Kayanha, Custodian
 Row 3: Gordon Salsman, Christian Education; Gordon Kieft, Director Samaritan Center; Maggi Susman, Financial Secretary; Kevin Jonell, Youth Intern; Ricki Moyer, Organist; Kathryn Phurrough, Director of Pre-School; Brad Berglund, Music & Worship Minister



Calvary Baptist Church

6500 E. Girard Ave
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Calvary Baptist *The Messenger*

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Calvary Baptist Church
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We are still receiving mail. It is held at the post office and picked up on Tuesdays.

Services and events are suspended until further notice. All worship services are on our Youtube channel "Calvary Baptist Church of Denver." If you cannot access them, please contact Pastor Alice (ahornernelson@calvarydenver.org)

General email:
cbc@calvarydenver.org

Website: www.calvarydenver.org