

4TH QUARTER FOCUS

Survey Results and Next Steps

Matt Carpenter, Minister of Congregational Care

Years ago, my grandparents began showing signs of aging. It was barely noticeable at first. A slight dip in energy, motivation, and activity.

My grandparents had been so active in the various ministries of their church that it was easy for my family to assume their slow-down in participation might be their changing interest and passion from one ministry to another as they sometimes would do. But this time something was different. Their lives were beginning to change, and I don't think either they or I were ready for the realities that might entail.

For my part, I was in denial about it—until I wasn't—and then I assumed they would need much more assistance than they really did. For my grandparents, the losses came very gradually and at very unpredictable intervals. Truth be told, they were both reasonably high functioning until the last year of their lives. As I reflect on my time with them and conversations we had about how they were doing, I realized we often talked past each other. I voiced my concerns; they voiced their assurance. I wonder now if there could have been a different way.

Hearing the 4th Quarter questions

It has been nine months since we convened our 4th Quarter Forum in the fellowship hall. Some of you were at that forum; others have joined the conversation since. As we've continued to shape our language of the 4th Quarter, we have realized this is primarily a season marked by the move from independence to dependence. We believe that as difficult as this time is to live through, it can be a season of profound spiritual transformation. It has been our experience that in order to reach the spiritual

questions, you must first lean into the practical ones. So, we have asked practical questions about this 4th Quarter, trusting they will lead us to the space of transformation.

In these months, we have been in conversation with people who can help us give form to a vision for where we go from here. We've reached out to our friends at Liminal Space, we've had conversation with other churches, and we've engaged in prayer and discernment as we sought to hone our next steps. We'd like to update you on where that conversation has led us and what we have on the calendar right now.

4th Quarter Survey results

A few weeks ago, we sent a survey to everyone actively connected to Calvin. We were encouraged that **42 of you chose to respond** and give us some very good feedback. More than half of you said that you would benefit from some sort of caregiver support group. As a result, we are running a **short-term caregiver support group** this summer to find out even better how we might support people who are functioning in the role of caregiver during this season of their lives. Our hope is that this group will help to inform how we support caregivers through Calvin in the future.

Another significant survey result was that the vast majority of you felt that you could use **education and resourcing** for the 4th Quarter. We were incredibly pleased to learn that there is a conference in Shoreline already planned for next spring that will address exactly these topics. This **conference in March 2019 at Shoreline Community Church** will focus on resources and education for those living in, and facing the challenges of, aging. This conference will feature nationally renowned speaker and educator **Teepa Snow** who provides excellent content and training on dementia and memory loss.

The third piece of feedback from the survey that we heard has to do with each other. It impressed us that many of you resonated with the idea that a conference or workshop might deepen relationships with each other, strengthening the fiber of our community as we journey through aging together. How we have conversations with each other matters, and perhaps we could all use a little coaching and assistance in how to have them. To this end, we are pursuing a proposal to host a **one-day workshop at Calvin in the fall of 2018 on how we navigate 4th Quarter conversations together**. Potential topics include:

(Continued on page 7)

MILESTONES OF FAITH

Commission Milestone

Celebrating our High School Graduates—
and What's Next

Drew Hogan, Youth and Family Ministry Associate



What an exciting time of the year!

It's my favorite time when reservations at restaurants are increasingly necessary for graduation celebrations.

How did we come upon this time? Our 12th graders are likely the individuals at Calvin with the highest reverence towards June. Not only because one of them has a birthday in June (yay, Cade!), but because June means graduation!

Our Seniors have been gathering periodically throughout the year with their awesome mentors, **Lois Olden** and **Kory Dean**. Step by step, these two have been walking alongside the seniors with a view toward the future. Whether it was looking at schools or work, the desire has been to help them see their gifts, help with applications, and always hold them in prayer.

Many see graduation as a break-off from the family unit, a time when roots are uplifted and move to schools far, far away, and a time when relationships ebb and flow. It's a hard transition, as many of us may remember, so it is a great time for us in the church to celebrate these graduating youth and to live in that transition with them. And though their faces may be seen less often over the next few years, we know their return will be met with joy.

The Commission Milestone centers around Jesus' commissioning of the disciples. He charged them with the task to go forth and continue using their gifts and new-found wisdom to continue his work in the world. Our desire as a church has been to transform the lives of our seniors, and now it's time to send them to serve and love God in new places and with many new faces.

In Paul's final greetings to the church in Ephesus, he writes:

"Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know about me and what I am doing. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about us, and that he may encourage your hearts."

I am humbled to be a part of living as an active continuation of the Bible. See, even though I had hooked-on-phonics and can pronounce the relatively difficult "Tychicus", I think it's best pronounced "Toko", or "Meggan", or "Michael", or "Cade".

Knowing where God has brought our four youth over the span of their lives is encouraging and exciting. Even more so are the possibilities for their futures! When you first left home (whether identifying as a Christian or not), what impact did you bear on the world around you? Who sent you off? Perhaps a mentor or parent telling you how to behave in the world. It is our prayer that you, too, may participate, like Paul, in sending these youth off to their next chapter, and that we as a church continue to find ways to encourage them as they encourage others.

Peace and grace!

2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Cade Jackson

Moutlake Terrace HS
University of Washington

Michael Johnson

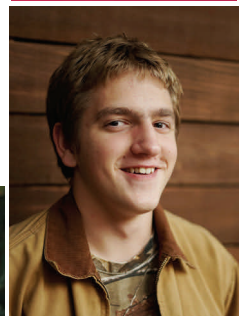
Shorecrest HS
Working at Tall Timber

Meggan McCaslin

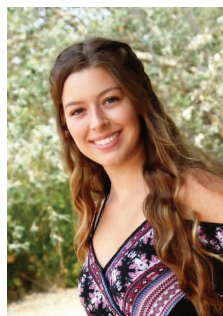
Shorewood HS
Western Washington University

Toko Weaver

Ingraham HS
University of Southern California



Cade Jackson
Michael Johnson
Meggan McCaslin
Toko Weaver



TEACHER FEATURE

Ian Parrilla

Why I teach Sunday school year after year

Karen Kirkman, Family Ministries Director

This year we have been blessed again with amazing teachers and ambassadors, those serving monthly alongside teachers. People teach—or don't teach—Sunday school for many reasons.

Maybe you taught when your kids were little, and now want others to do the same. Maybe you had a special Sunday school teacher growing up and want to be that for someone else. Never having attended Sunday school, you may not feel equipped; or because you weren't equipped, you feel you could be the one equipping children. After a long week of work, teaching could sound exhausting; or after a long week of work, teaching is your fulfilling, happy place.

One thing many of our teachers have learned is that, really, we are not the ones teaching. We are vessels of God's love and wisdom, making ourselves available to His calling to love others with His power, and grace.

Partnering with families to raise a generation for Christ is our entire church's responsibility. Each person plays a part on some level. Teaching Sunday school is one place where God can use our gifts. While some teach for a year and then feel called to another ministry, **Ian Parrilla** has taught our preschoolers for over 15 years!

Ian and her family, husband Benjie, sons Benj and Pietro and daughter Lora, migrated to the United States from the Philippines in 2000-2001. Currently, Ian works full time as a Financial Analyst at Precor, Inc. Her husband Benjie works at Boeing, Benj attends Seattle University, Pietro attends George Fox, and Lora is a high school freshman at Edmonds Homeschool.

The Parrilla family began attending Calvin 15 years ago after they were invited by member Kay Bartholomew. Shortly after becoming members, Ian began teaching Sunday school in 2005. Ian remembers that "growing up, Sunday school was so much part of me. I acknowledge that it was one of the ways that the church helped my parents in nurturing my spiritual growth. This is my way of giving back".

Teaching Sunday school is not the only way Ian serves. She also is part of our Family Ministry Team, and this year she joined and sings in our choir. Often times you will see the Parrilla family serving together cleaning the grounds, decorating for an event,



leading worship, or packing food backpacks, among other things. As a family, the Parrillas also try to give back to the Philippines in their own little ways.

One of the best parts of teaching Sunday school for Ian is "the ... humbling feeling that, despite my imperfections, God is using me as an instrument to show His love to the little ones. It also makes me accountable as I teach the lesson, to try to walk the talk."

When asked about rewarding moments of teaching Ian mentions two: "Every time we sing our welcome song, (we sing it for each child and we end the song with the child's name), I love the look on the children's faces as they anticipate their turn when we sing their name." "There is also the eagerness of the children to share their thoughts" (as they try to relate to the story/lesson).

Each week Ian spends approximately an hour and a half preparing her lesson, including classroom set up. She continues to teach Sunday school because, "It is the ministry that God has put in my heart to be involved in. As long as I have the calling, I will continue to teach."

Ian's hope for kids and families is that that the experience goes beyond the craft or art work, or the playtime that we have. "In the short time we have together, even though the lesson may not sink in at that time, more than anything else, I pray that they feel loved and valued by me, our congregation, and by our great God. For the parents, I pray that they feel loved and supported by the church as they nurture their children."

For the last year, Ian has enjoyed the flexibility of sharing the class with a partner, alternating weeks with another teacher. Ian would love to continue having a partner teach our preschoolers every other week. **Teaching Sunday school doesn't require experience.** If you are curious and feel God's nudging, and love God and his children, Ian and I would love to talk with you about this opportunity to partner with parents to raise this generation to know and love Christ.

JUNE OUTREACH FOCUS

Who Coordinates Calvin's Outreach Efforts?

The Outreach Coordinating Team

Pray. Grow. Serve.

We frequently have these three banners at the front of the sanctuary, and we often talk about these three components of the Christian life.

This framework is further reinforced by our Vision statement:

“We gather to *worship* in Spirit and truth, *grow* toward maturity in Christ, and *spread God's love* to our neighborhoods and in the world.”

Notice that the highlighted words are what grammarians would call “action verbs.” Each requires action on our part! The Outreach Team is focused on the final of these three – **Serving** by reaching out to our world to spread God's love.

Calvin has historically had a strong commitment to missions outreach in our community and around the world. Without a staff person to coordinate our mission efforts, Calvin relies on a small Outreach Team focused on helping the congregation be well-informed and actively involved in serving and sharing God's love.

For each Outreach partner, we have a volunteer-created Action Team. The role of the Action Team is to be a strong liaison between our congregation and those actively engaged in the mission.

We ask the Action Teams to stay aware of the needs and accomplishments of our mission partners, to share those with the rest of us, and help us see how we each can be more involved. We hope you have noticed that at least once each year, we all get an update on each of our mission partners – including a presentation from the pulpit, an article in *Connections*, an informational bulletin board, and perhaps an additional activity such as a dinner or service opportunity.

Our Action Teams are a way for all of us to carry out the “Serve” part of our opportunity as Christians. Here's a list of our Outreach partners, along with a contact name from the Action Team:

- **Backpack Kids:** Polly Terman
- **Bridge Ministries:** Dan Coppin
- **Cambodian Ministries** (DOVE, CUSP, Chase Family ministry): Judy Runions
- **Camp United We Stand:** Lindsay Hogan (team now forming)
- **Community College Outreach:** Rick Miller
- **Food Pantry:** Jean Johnson
- **Path from Poverty:** Donna Miller-Parker
- **Ronald Commons:** Cindy Darling (team forming)
- **Vision House:** Donna Miller-Parker
- **Yucatan Helping Hands:** Dan Coppin

Our purpose, as the Outreach Team, is not to manage these partnerships – that's the role of the Action Teams. Our role is to support and advise the Action Teams and to foster involvement by all Calvin members. We would like to challenge each of you to take the opportunity for service very seriously and to connect with one of these projects in a meaningful way.

Outreach Team members:

Jan Allen*, Tim Julius*, Donna Miller-Parker, Alison Neubauer, Dennis Ostgard, Gretchen Scheumann* (*Elders on Session).



Path for Poverty's May Walk for Water at Seward Park raised over \$31,000 for water tanks in Kenya!

Calvin's Reigning Ladies Team and PrimeTimers walked together, raising \$2,700.



JULY OUTREACH FOCUS

Encouraging our Neighbors at Ronald Commons

Opening our hearts and schedules for service

Cindy Darling and Barbara Rood

Shoreline faith community coordinates support for Ronald Commons through RCFA

A number of Shoreline-area churches, including Calvin, have formed the **Ronald Commons Faith Alliance (RCFA)** to provide a welcoming, supportive community for the individuals and families who live there. Founding partner **Compass Housing Alliance** continues to coordinate services for Ronald Commons residents, including support for the Faith Alliance. Meetings are held every other month.

Even without an Action Team for Ronald Commons (RC), Calvin representatives have continued to attend the meetings to assess if and how we might best be involved. There is one particular parallel with Calvin—we both have a Summer Community Block Party! This year they will be one month apart.

Unlike at Calvin, parking at RC is very limited, so **Calvin's bus**, driven by a Calvin bus driver, **could be put to good use shuttling party-goers to and from nearby parking lots**. If you are trained and willing to give an hour or two driving Calvin's bus on July 21, please contact John Claus.

RCFA is encouraging churches to host fun summer activities at RC. Ideas waiting for sponsors:

- Summer craft projects
- "Mini Taco Night"
- Tie dye t-shirt afternoon
- Financial sponsor for a pet portrait photography session
- *What's your creative idea?*

We hope to schedule a Missional Moment speaker this summer to share personally with us during worship about ways we may serve and share God's love with Ronald Commons residents.

Look for more information about Ronald Commons on the bulletin board in the foyer in June and July. Volunteer opportunities include everything from yard and garden maintenance and knitting classes to after-school homework help.

We say at Calvin that we care about those on margins—especially those who are hungry and homeless. Residents at Ronald Commons are fortunate to have the basics, but very little more. If you believe as we do, that we all have something to learn as well as offer at Ronald Commons, contact us, **Cindy Darling and Barbara Rood**, to **grow an Action Team at Calvin for Ronald Commons residents**.



What is Ronald Commons?

Ronald Commons is a unique partnership between **Ronald United Methodist Church, Compass Housing Alliance, and Hopelink** who collaborated to build 60 units of affordable housing, with on-site support services including 12,000 square feet for a food bank and new service center for Hopelink's Shoreline operations. It is located just a mile SE of Calvin near Shorewood High School.

Learn more at <http://www.calvinpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/10-11-2017-Oct-Nov-Connections-WEB.pdf>

Celebrate with Us!

RONALD COMMONS COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

**SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018
11AM-3PM**

Ronald Commons/RUMC Courtyard
17839 Aurora Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

FREE Door Prizes

Live Music **Food** **Family FUN**

Thank you to our sponsors



Shoreline Arts Council Shoreline, Wells Fargo, PCC, Express Credit Union and Early Head Start

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS

Action Team Forming for 'Camp United We Stand'

Making space for those without shelter

Lindsay Hogan and Brooke Sahlstrom

Do you have a desire to get involved and make an impact for God locally?

Do you believe Calvin Church can spread Christ's love right here in Shoreline?

We have the opportunity to do just that!

Camp United We Stand (CUWS) has asked Calvin Church to host their tent community of 32 people for 90 days, from November 16, 2018, to February 18, 2019. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the unsheltered of our community in an immediate and tangible way.

By welcoming the CUWS community to our campus, we can help transform the lives of residents and build awareness of their needs in Shoreline. It has been over five years since Calvin hosted a tent encampment. CUWS's request opens the door to do it again, on a smaller scale. Could God be leading you to participate in creating a safe space for people who do not come home to the comfort many of us take for granted? Consider it prayerfully!

A CUWS Action Team is forming now! We want to connect with **you** to find meaningful ways Camp United We Stand can be served at, and by, Calvin Church. Please contact **Lindsay Hogan and Brooke Sahlstrom** through the church office for more information and to get involved. Together we can become a new Calvin Action Team committed to making a difference in the lives of 32 people—for 90 days, and for their future. And if we are open to it, they likely will make a difference in us as well.

Summertime and the giving is easy

Visit our website to set up recurring contributions.



Easy, Secure Summer Giving

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings made electronically as you probably do with other obligations?

Calvin Church offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred from their bank account, credit card or debit card. Especially when you have plans to travel or even when life just feels too full of details, **eGiving** gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings.

Please visit the church website at www.calvinpc.org/donate-online to learn more about how easy it is for you, your family, and friends to start using electronic giving. When you set up an online account, you will have full access to your giving record online, 24/7.

Calvin Church continues to add new ways to give electronically and recently added **Text-to-Give** for mobile devices. Find the free Calvin Presbyterian Church app in Android or Apple store by searching with our zip code, 98177.

You can still give to Calvin all the traditional ways—and now the many new ways too!

- Cash
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- Your bank bill pay system
- Debit card
- Credit card
- eGiving online
- Text to Give on mobile

Contact Finance Coordinator John Claus with questions.

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Long-term Administrator Retiring in September

Dear Calvin Family,

You have probably heard that I am retiring from my support position at Calvin at the end of September after serving for 22 years.

I have loved my job and the people I have worked with. It will be hard to step away, but this is the right time for me, for my family, and I trust, also for Calvin. I have no plans to leave my church home where I have worshiped and served for nearly 30 years, so I am not saying Goodbye.

I will, though, have to take off my Calvin staff hat, and ask that you each recognize and honor the necessity of letting go of the baton when it is passed to the next runner in the race. I will no longer be the “go to” person who is supposed to have answers to all your questions! Other staff will cover until someone else is selected to fill the position.

My last regularly scheduled work day will be Thursday, June 14. The rest of June, Dave and I will be vacationing in Oregon and Idaho. July through September, I will continue handing off responsibilities and provide training and mentoring for a smooth transition.

Please continue to pray and trust with me for God’s Spirit to direct the selection of my successor—someone with the right combination of skills and gifts to lead our administration and communications ministries.

Thank you for your support and affirmation over the years. There is one more thing to do. Pastor Neil insists there be some sort of retirement recognition event. If you are so inclined, you could offer to help him with this task. Just please don’t try to surprise me! Administrators are notorious for planning and dislike surprises!

Partnering in His work,

Barbara Rood

Fellowship Team Volunteers Transition to New Roles *It’s all good!*

Greg Terman, Nurture Elder

The Nurture elders would like to thank **Ruth Van Dyke** for her two years of service as Life Together Event Coordinator at Calvin. Her great organizing skills have given us many fun and delicious Life Together events.

Ruth will step away from this position to return to the Deacon Board this summer. She will however continue doing the job of organizing the kitchen, Sunday AM coffee team, etc. If you enjoy what comes out of Calvin’s busy kitchen, please thank her yourself for the important behind-the-scenes role she has had.

Karen Claus has accepted the job of Life Together Event Coordinator. We thank her too! Karen is **looking for volunteers** to join the planning team for our next Life Together events—**July 1, August 12 and September 9**. Please contact Karen Claus if you would be willing to offer your time and energy to help plan these events or to serve at a Life Together event on one or more of these dates.

(Continued from page 1)

4th Quarter Survey Results and Next Steps

- 1) Who will take care of me as I age?
- 2) Engaging in difficult conversations about aging and independence and,
- 3) Finding my purpose in the 4th Quarter.

We hope to know more details on this workshop in the next month and will share them with you as they become available.

Thank you all who have participated in our survey. Your honesty and feedback are helping shape how we as a church respond to the questions raised by the 4th Quarter.

Our hope in all of this is that you feel this season of life is something you don’t have to navigate alone. We believe our God is with us through every season of life and that he has called this community together to reflect this ministry of presence with each other. **May this next season see Calvin grow stronger and deeper together through the ways we support each other through our varied experiences in the 4th Quarter.**



Forming Community, Transforming Lives, Reforming Our World

June/July 2018

CONNECTIONS

THE CONNECTIONS TEAM

Margaret Didenhover David Rood
John & Sue Kropf Barbara Rood
Dorothy Lindstrom

CONNECTIONS FUTURE DATES

Email all material to:
administrator@calvinpc.org.
*Connections Editor reserves the right
to edit materials to fit the space available.*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00, 9:15, 11:00 am through June 17
June 24, July, August, Sept 2 & 9
10:00 am *One Life Together Service*

See website for occasional changes
in service times, www.calvinpc.org.

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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OUTREACH EMPHASIS SCHEDULE

June	Outreach Team Overview
July	Ronald Commons
August	Backpack Kids
September	Bridge Ministries

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE

Beginning Sunday, June 24, we will return to our single Life Together worship service at **10 am** through the summer months, **ending on September 9**.

Life Together **meals** following worship are planned for **July 1, August 12, and September 9**.

THANK YOU

Since December I've been battling Arteritis, a somewhat rare condition. Medication has triggered repeated internal bleeding and kidney failure. Thank you so much for cards, phone calls, emails, flowers, food and visits from Calvin friends. I especially thank you for so many prayers - each one rising to become a *whisper of God's Grace!* **Wayne Clugston**

Dear Calvin Family,

We truly appreciate the many expressions of love and caring that you have poured onto us over the past weeks following the death of our precious daughter, Chelsea. The cards, calls, flowers, visits, meals and gifts have meant a lot to us. The memorial service was beyond imagination. We are so grateful for all the hands that contributed to making that a tribute to her life. Most importantly, we appreciate your faithful prayers as God has been present to us in very significant ways.

We are eternally grateful for your love and support,
Arden and Cindy Snyder

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Lara and Kory Dean** on the birth of daughter, **Evelyn Dean**, on April 25, 2018. Evelyn joins big sister Bella, age 5.

To **Valerie Grissom**:

Valerie Grissom, Music Ministries Director at Calvin Church, recently was awarded the title Doctor of Worship Studies, her thesis entitled "Cultivating Intercultural Dialogue Through Story as a Spiritually Formative Practice for Worship at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Shoreline, Washington." Valerie's formal graduation ceremony to celebrate this occasion will be Sunday, June 17, at The Robert Webber Institute of Worship in Jacksonville, Florida.

Valerie wishes to thank all those at Calvin who have supported her in her studies and gives all glory to God! *Soli Deo Gloria!*

CONDOLENCES

To **Arden and Cindy Snyder** on the death of their daughter **Chelsea Snyder** on April 4, 2018. A memorial service was held at Calvin on April 21, 2018. Remembrances may be sent to the Chelsea Snyder Scholarship Fund, Whitworth University; <https://connect.whitworth.edu/ChelseaSnyder>

To the family and friends of **Lois Howard** who passed away May 17, 2018, at the age of 97. A memorial service is planned for June 4, 2018, at Crista.

April 2018 Financial Report

Calvin Ministries and Operations
Fiscal Year July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018

2017-2018 Actual compared to Budget

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	%
Income (Unrestricted)				
Contributions	496,675	474,000	22,675	4.8%
Investments	128	416	(288)	
Bequest Income	-	-	-	
Total Income	496,803	474,416	22,387	4.7%
Ministry Prg & Operating Expense	(487,293)	(495,079)	7,786	1.6%
Surplus / (Deficit)	9,510	(20,663)	30,173	

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

**2017-2018 Fiscal Year Ends in June
God's People are Faithful!**

We are grateful to be ahead of budget expectations at the end of April, and trust that, with a strong month of June, we will end the fiscal year with a good surplus.

While meeting budgets is good, our lean budgeting in recent years has omitted many needed facility upgrades. Your continued support will enable our good planning for such work to come to fruition in the next year. Praise God, and Thank you!

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

