

CONNECTIONS

May 2011

A monthly publication of Crossroads CRC

Attention, Priests of Crossroads!

Are you looking around for the priests? Are you wondering to whom exactly this article is speaking? Look no further; this is for YOU. Yes, YOU! A couple weeks ago, Mike VanderPol preached about how each follower of Jesus is chosen by God to be a priest and that we have a task to do: SERVE God and SERVE others. His message was from I Peter 2: *"You are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him."*

It might feel a little odd to think of yourself as a priest. Using another word, "minister," might not feel like a good fit either. For much of the history of the organized church, those words have been reserved for those who have received special training in seminary or who have dedicated themselves to working full-time for the church.

Over time, that history has skewed our perspective on what ministry really is. It can be too easy to think of ministry as something "the church" does while forgetting that, in fact, WE are the church. The church isn't just a building, and being a minister or "doing ministry" isn't limited to the people on the church payroll. Think about this for a few minutes...

Who is a minister?

Have you ever spent an hour in the church nursery, children's worship or Trails loving the little children and telling them God loves them? That is ministry, and you are the minister.

Have you ever served coffee and cookies to make someone feel welcome in your home or here at church? Have you ever brought a meal to someone? Then you are a minister.

Have you ever led a Life Group? Led worship on the Praise Team? Served as a deacon, an elder or on a church committee? Then you are a minister.

Have you ever served a meal at Interfaith? Given generously to support a mission trip? Been on a mission trip? Mentored someone to grow in Christ? Shared your faith? That is all ministry! If you have served others and served God in any of these tasks or in any one of countless big or small ways that show love, spread the gospel or serve God – then you are a minister.

But wait, there is more. Much more. And it is amazing.

At this point you might be thinking this is a pretty big task. "Me, a minister? No way!" But don't stop reading now because there is more to this plan.

Just as every Jesus-follower is a priest, he or she is also given the gift of the Holy Spirit living in him or her. The Holy Spirit then blesses every believer with Spiritual Gifts as he determines (I Cor. 12:7). If you are a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is in you, and you have been given Spiritual Gifts.

God's plan doesn't end with a title ("priest") and a commission ("serve"). It is so much more than that: God EQUIPS us with spiritual gifts to do good works (Eph. 4:11) AND prepares good works for us to do (Eph. 2:10)

Here is the amazing thing about spiritual gifts: when we are obedient to serve and allow God to work through us and the spiritual gifts he has given us, he accomplishes SO MUCH MORE than we could ever do on our own.

You have probably experienced this in one way or another in your own life. For example, have you ever gotten a phone call or letter from a friend at just the right time when you were discouraged? Have you been blessed with a meal when you were sick, one made with so much love that you didn't even mind that it included Brussels sprouts? (My apologies to sprout lovers.) Have you listened to a teacher or preacher and known that the truth spoken seemed to be meant just for you in that moment?

So how do I serve best when I do not know what my gifts are?

God calls us first to serve, and that means sometimes that we are called to service without knowing our gifts. God honors a serving heart, and it may very well be that it is *through* serving that he reveals what your gifts are. In a class about spiritual gifts at Saddleback Church, they teach that "it is easier to discover your gifts through your ministry than to discover your ministry through your gifts."

It is also important to remember that the Holy Spirit gives gifts in *his* time, not our time. You may be blessed with a gift *after* you have been obedient in answering a call to serve, or you may find your gifts increase as you use them for God's glory.

The Bible describes and mentions a number of spiritual gifts, and it can be very helpful to learn what your gifts are. Recently, I was able to take a class that helped me learn a bit about the gifts that God is using in my life, and this class will be offered here at Crossroads on May 21.

A big part of this class will help you learn about gifts and ways you might discover the gifts with which you have been blessed, but the class will also show how your spiritual gifts combined with your passions, abilities, experiences and personality – also gifts of God – make you a person uniquely shaped to serve God in ministry. It is going to be a great morning of discussion and learning together, and I hope you will consider joining us!

The hope is that each person here at Crossroads can grow in knowing God in many ways, including through serving him, and that learning more about how God has made and gifted you will show you how important you are to God's work in the church and in the world.

Rebecca Ligtenberg

may church calendar

See page 4 for
Life Group information.

Sunday, May 1

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
3:30PM Introduction to Crossroads Class

Wednesday, May 4

7:00PM Administrative Committee
Women's Book Group

Sunday, May 8

9:30AM Morning Worship Service

Wednesday, May 11

7:00PM GEMS & Cadets

Thursday, May 12

9:30AM Mothers of Young Children

Saturday, May 14

1:30PM Middle School Youth

Sunday, May 15

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
10:45AM Guitarists Rehearsal

Monday, May 16

7:00PM Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, May 18

7:00PM Administrative Committee
Womens Book Group

Saturday, May 21

8:00AM Spiritual Gifts Class (SHAPE)
See page 3 for details.

Sunday, May 22

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
11:00AM Worship Planning Team Meeting

Monday, May 23

7:00PM Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, May 25

7:00PM Elders Meeting

Thursday, May 26

9:30AM Mothers of Young Children

Saturday, May 28

1:00PM Middle School Youth

Sunday, May 29

9:30AM Morning Worship Service
High School Fundraiser

We share our facilities with **Camino al Cielo**, a Spanish speaking congregation led by Pastor Jose Balderas. They use the facilities on Sundays at 12:30PM, Thursdays at 7:00PM, and Saturdays at 6:00AM.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group usually meets twice a month on Wednesday evenings; our meeting locations may vary this month. We take turns hosting and always have a wonderful time sharing and laughing as well as discussing books. On May 4 and 18 we will be reading and discussing *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. We welcome visitors and new members at any time for just one book or for a longer period. Check with Suanne Varvel or Trena Boonstra if you have questions.

Mothers of Young Children Group

Are you a mother with young children at home? Do you want a place where you can go to have honest discussions about the joys and challenges of being a mother? Come to the Mothers of Young Children Group! Our meetings for May are on the 12th and the 26th at 9:30AM at church. Nursery and toddler classes are provided. Talk to Dorissa Radersma and Sarah Verhoeven with any questions.

library & bookstore news

Books are available for purchase or to borrow from the Book Cart in the foyer. The left side of the cart is the Book Store and the right side is the Library. Both sides are self-help with instructions posted. Many more library books are available in the library room next to the nursery. Contact Trena Boonstra for help or if you have questions. The library collection includes print books, audio books, DVDs, magazines, and videos. There is a small children's section; please guide your young children in the library.

happy birthday

Henry Kraus	05/01
Jacob Stout	05/02
Jeremiah Stout	05/02
Brad Jansen	05/03
Braedyn Arendse	05/04
Valerie Varvel	05/06
Isaac Lapka	05/07
Lorraine Koch	05/10
Abigail Radersma	05/11
Niels de Jong	05/12
Arie Wilgenburg	05/12
Elise Van Dam	05/13
Tyson Jasperse	05/15
Bethany Steidl	05/20
Dorissa Radersma	05/21
Sandy Geerdes	05/22
Coby Ton	05/24
Josh Vermaire	05/26
Mark Vermaire	05/27
Mike Carlson	05/29
Caleb Lapka	05/29
Jim Kroon	05/30
Cohen Jansen	05/30

happy anniversary

Mark & Nettie Steenstra	05/03☺
Christian & Jenny Anderson	05/08
Lyle & Lonnie Gorter	05/16☺
Frank & Judy Steidl	05/22☺

☺ = A "Special" Anniversary

have something to share?

We welcome and encourage news from the congregation for the newsletter. All submissions are subject to approval by the office staff or the council (as needed). Any items for the newsletter are due the 15th of each month for publication the following month.

crossroads service group

The **Crossroads Service Group** is active every week in a variety of service and outreach ministries in our community. Feel free to join them for any of the following service opportunities this month—more volunteers are always welcome!

- **Thursday, May 5:** Serve breakfast at Interfaith
- **Thursday, May 12:** Serve dinner at Merle's Place

As always, anyone who has suggestions and/or questions for the Service Group, or would like to participate in any of the above service projects, can contact the group leader Pat Medendorp at 760.747.2257.

may events calendar

SAN MARCOS LIBRARY EVENTS

Lapsit Storytime

Date: Tuesdays (May 3, 10, 17, 24)

Start Time: 11:00AM

Description: Stories, rhymes, songs and movement for infants (0-1) and an accompanying adult.

Toddler/Preschool Storytime

Date: Wednesdays (May 4, 11, 18, 25)

Start Time: 9:30/10:30AM

Description: Stories, rhymes, songs & movement for toddlers & preschoolers and an accompanying adult.

ESCONDIDO LIBRARY EVENTS

Rhymes & Reading

Date: Mondays (May 2, 9, 16, 23)

Start Time: 11:00AM

Description: Raising a Reader with letters, shapes, stories, and fingerplays.

Cowboy Charlie

Date: Thursdays (May 5, 12, 19)

Start Time: 10:30AM

Description: Sing along with classic campfire songs!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
TRI TIP/STROOPWAFEL
FUNDRAISER
SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS!!

DISCOVER YOUR
Shape
FOR MINISTRY

Saturday, May 21

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

THREE WAYS TO SIGN UP:

1. Email: office@crossroadscrc.com
2. Call: 760-744-4673 (church office)
3. Write: "Sign me up for the SHAPE Class" on a Communication Card in the Sunday Bulletin

Everyone is uniquely gifted for serving God in ministry. In this class, you'll learn about how five different ways God created you make up your unique **Shape** for ministry:

Spiritual Gifts

Heart Passions

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

This class is for anyone who wants to learn more about spiritual gifts, whether they have been serving in church for a long time, or want to start serving for the first time.

Connect,



Grow, Serve.

Sign ups begin May 15.



Life Changing.

Life **CONNECTING.**

Life **GROWING.**

Life Serving.

Life groups

Connect,



Grow, Serve.

YOUTH EDITION

middle school youth

Middle School Youth Leaders:

Danae Lapka 760.432.8876
Jonathan Vermaire
Dorinda Vander Pol

Our meetings this month will be:

May 14: 1:30-4:00PM Ice skating at the Iceoplex in Escondido. Cost is \$10 per person. Drop-off and pick-up at the Iceoplex.

May 28: 1:00-3:00PM Playground ministry with Mision Vida Nueva at Pioneer School in Escondido. Drop-off and pick-up at Pioneer School.

high school youth

High School Youth:

Sue Wagenveld 760.738.0819

Our meetings this month will be:

DETAILS COMING SOON!

Is this the same group of kids?
(More pictures of our youth and what exactly happens on Yuck Day on page 7.)



cadets

Cadets Boy's Club is for all boys in grades 4th-8th. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-9:00PM at Church.

Head Counselor: Lauren Jongetjes 760.761.4857

- May 11: FINAL Meeting at church.
- May 20 USS Midway

Watch the weekly bulletins for more details.

gems

GEMS Girl's Club is for all girls in grade 3rd-8th. They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-9:00PM at Church. Come and learn how the "Feed the Fire!"

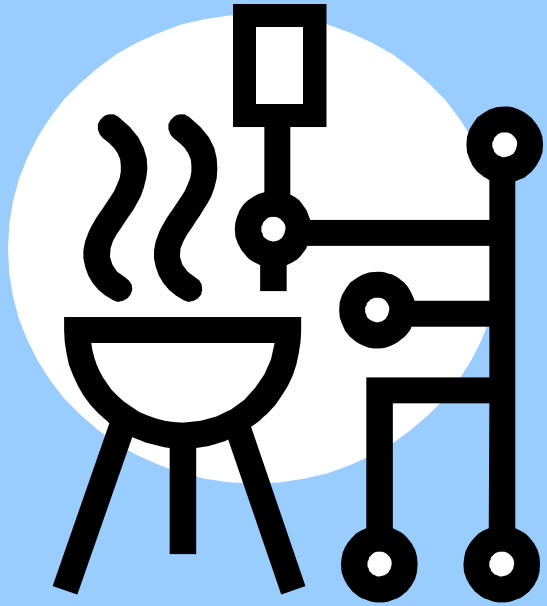
Head Counselor: Sue Wagenveld 760.738.0819

- May 11: FINAL Meeting at church.

Watch the weekly bulletins for more details!

High School Youth Group Fundraiser

May 29, 2011



What:

Smoked Tri-Tip,

hot and ready to go after church on May 29, a delicious meal for your family on Memorial Day weekend (approximately 3 lbs)

Stroopwafels,

authentic Dutch waffle cookies which freeze very well, but usually don't last the ride home!

Why:

This is a Fundraiser for the High School youth group going on a Youthworks mission trip to Las Vegas in July. Twelve of our youth are attending and this will offset the cost of \$300 per person.

PREORDER NOW!

Tri-Tip - \$20

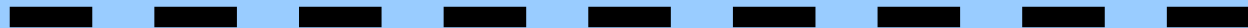
Stroopwafels (package of 6)-\$5

Pick up at Crossroads CRC after church on May 29

(unless other arrangements are made)

Deadline for orders is May 8th.

Feel free to order by printing off this sheet now, otherwise an order form will be put in boxes at a later date.



NAME _____

	Quantity		
Tri-Tip	_____	X \$20 =	_____
Stroopwafels (package of 6)	_____	X \$5 =	_____
		Total=	_____

Please make checks payable to Crossroads CRC – order by May 8.

The faces of our Youth

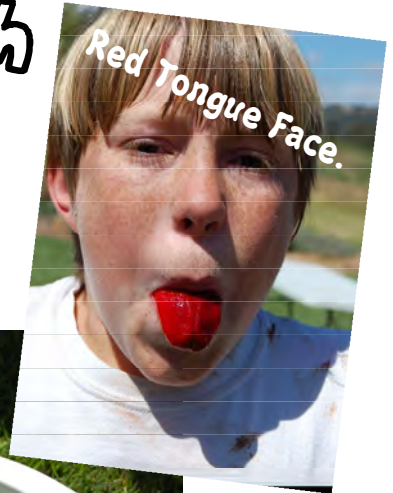
Hope you enjoy this fun event through pictures as much as we did.



WHAT IS THIS Face.



Donut Face.



Red Tongue Face.



Goop Face.



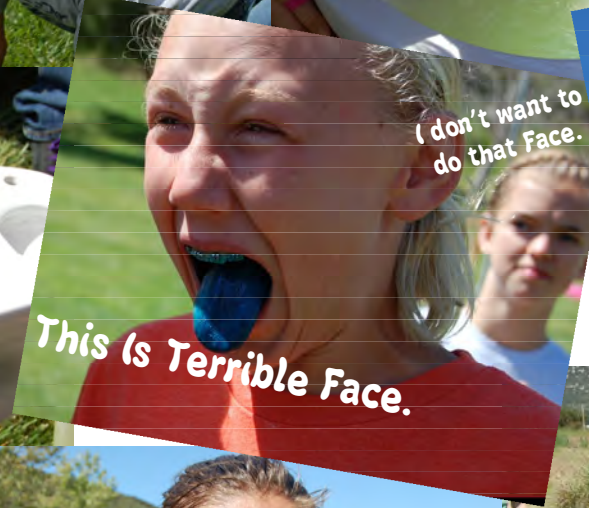
Cotton Ball Face.



Girl Toilet Bowl Face.



Boy Toilet Bowl Face.



This is Terrible Face.

I don't want to do that Face.



Confused Face.



Blue Tongue Face.



Tastes Bad Face.



Smooch Face.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Crossroads is a Stephen Ministry Church. Stephen Ministers are trained, Christian, lay, volunteer care givers. Literature about Stephen Ministry is available on a table in the foyer. Besides long term one on one care giving, Stephen Ministers at Crossroads are also available for situations such as visiting in the hospital or at home for extended confinements. Contact Trena Boonstra if either you or someone you know might benefit from the help of a Stephen Minister. Also check with Trena if you have interest in being trained as a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers are now part of the prayer team after the worship service. Usually an elder and a SM will be waiting at the bottom of the steps on either side of the platform after the service. They are available to listen to joys and concerns and pray with anyone. It may be difficult to write down a concern so the prayer team members are available to listen and pray. Concerns are only shared with others if permission is given to do so; the prayer concern will not automatically be added to the church e-mail prayer line.

Crossroads in the community

Life Group Service Project



THANKS FOR FEEDING THE FISH

Thank you for Feeding the Fish!

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who participated in the Peter Fish campaign in March. Your dollars and coins added up to \$1,756.69! All the money raised will be sent directly to the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) to support efforts around the world to reduce poverty and hunger by teaching farming techniques and adult literacy, providing small loans to business people, and working to find long-term solutions to poverty.

CRWRC is the relief and development arm of the Christian Reformed Church. They currently are partnered with more than 130 churches and community organizations in 30 countries around the world in community development ministries. They also provide disaster response and relief in the United States, Canada and around the world. You can learn more about their work by visiting their website: <http://www.crwrc.org>



may volunteer schedule

Worship Team [Danae Lapka]

May: Guitarists rehearsal Sunday, May 15 until 11:45AM

- May 1: Vicki Van Essen, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Dorissa Radersma, Tyler Schemper, Ryan Bons
May 8: Anita Termaat, Ella de Jong, Paul & Danae Lapka, Megan & Jodi Van Solkema, Jake Bons
May 15: Vicki Van Essen, Cindy Kroon, Dorissa Radersma, Bill Stout, Graeme Koch
May 22: Guitarists, Jeremiah Stout, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Tyler Schemper, Ryan Bons
May 29: Anita Termaat, Ella de Jong, Paul & Danae Lapka, Jake Bons

Children's Worship [Tami Schemper]

- May 1: Sherry Schwab, Kara Steenstra, Jeremiah Stout
May 8: Tami Schemper, Levi Faber, Trevor Vander Pol
May 15: Christina Faber, Dan Stout, Emma Vander Pol
May 22: Dotti Hejka, Ashley Van Zante, Niels de Jong
May 29: Dorissa Radersma, Megan Van Solkema, David Gomolka

Nursery/Child Care [Heidi Vermaire & Jenny Varvel]

(*denotes person in charge)

- May 1: Infant: *Dotti Hejka, Dicky Bons, Joshua Bakker
Toddler: Bill Stout, Ryan Bons
May 8: Infant: *Diane Jasa, Brian Verhoeven, Ella de Jong
Toddler: Ned Vander Pol, Shane Carlson
May 15: Infant: *Nettie Steenstra, George Tostado, Emma Vander Pol
Toddler: Sylvia Bons, Ashley Van Zante
May 22: Infant: *Dorinda Vander Pol, Laura te Velde, Madeline Salzman
Toddler: Rebecca Ligtenberg, Trevor Vander Pol
May 29: Infant: *Amy Jongetjes, Max Van Engen, Luke Steenstra
Toddler: Josh Van Zante, Niels de Jong

Ushers [Mike Carlson]

- May 1: Josh Vermaire (D), Luke Varvel (D), George te Velde, Steve Katje, Dotti Hejka
May 8: Luke Varvel (D), Rebecca Ligtenberg (D), Mike Carlson, Kevin Vos, Lyle Gorter
May 15: Levi Faber (D), Josh Vermaire (D), Doug Van Solkema, Jim Kroon, Terry Kok
May 22: Brian Verhoeven (D), Levi Faber (D), Mike Carlson, Eric de Jong, Joy Jasperse
May 29: Brian Verhoeven (D), Rebecca Ligtenberg (D), Mark Steenstra, Warren Van Dam, Frank Zuidema

Refreshments [Suanne Varvel]

- May 1: (Anna) Sheri Coffee, Joy Jasperse, Lindsey Vander Pol, Coby Ton
May 8: (Dicky) Sandy Geerdes, Susie Orsburn, Anita Termaat, Dotty Van Iwaarden
May 15: (Suanne) Ineke Burrie, Dorissa Radersma, Kathie Turner, Grace Vander Werf
May 22: (Silva) Amy Jongetjes, Sylvia Bons, Lorraine Koch, Kristin Brown
May 29: (Anna) Jayne Kok, Christie Roberson, Elsa Stout, Cindy Kroon

Opening/Closing [Jeff Hickox]

- 05/01 Jeff Hickox
05/08 Brian Duyst
05/15 Tanno Gomolka
05/22 Brian Roberson
05/29 George Henry

1st Substitute: Jim Kroon
2nd Substitute: Tony Bons

Sunday Greeters [Kathy Zuidema]

- May Arie & Anneke de Jong
Anita Heading

Sound Crew [Frank Bons]

- 05/01 Frank Bons
05/08 Frank Steidl
05/15 Rick De Baan
05/22 George Tostado
05/29 Randy Nagel

Projection Crew [Marlys Hickox]

- 05/01 Mike Schwab
05/08 Linda Van Solkema
05/15 Rod Koelewyn
05/22 Dan Stout/Marlys Hickox
05/29 Mike Schwab

Video Crew [Danae Lapka]

- 05/01 Mark Bakker
05/08 Jacob Stout
05/15 Haley Voorkamp
05/22 Michael Wagenveld
05/29 David Gomolka

Prayer of God's People [Office]

- 05/01 Pastor Mark Vermaire
05/08 Elder Pat Medendorp
05/15 Bill Stout
05/22 Jo Henry
05/29 Marlys Hickox

Open Table [Elsa Stout]

- May: Gary & Dorissa Radersma

may offering schedule

May 1:	General Fund & Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid Fund
May 8:	General Fund & Rev. Melvin & April Jackson (CRHM)
May 15:	General Fund & Mirtha Villafañe (CRHM)
May 22:	General Fund & Benevolence Fund
May 29:	General Fund & Zakka Chomock (CRWRC)

- The morning offerings are for our **General Fund**. Moneys collected pay for our own church's operating expenses (wages, insurance, utilities, etc.) as well as our denominational Ministry Shares (The Back to God Hour, CR World & Home Missions, Calvin Seminary & College, etc.) **Our '10-11 Budget commitment requires an average weekly offering of about \$7,689.81.**
- **Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid** is used to assist families from our church who are unable to pay full tuition. Our commitment for the 2010-2011 school year is \$21,915.48. This number has increased as we have been able to help one more family this year. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this fund throughout the school year.
- **Christian Reformed Home Missions—Rev. Melvin and April Jackson:** An offering will be received on May 8 to support the Jackson's ministry in Los Angeles at Grace Unlimited Church. We have committed to support them with \$2,000.00 per year.
- **Mirtha M. Villafañe R.** is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church Home Missions. She also has the title of Hispanic Ministry Developer Southern California and Pastor of the Latin American CRC.
- **Benevolent Fund** collections are used for those in our church or in our community who may have special needs. Please contact a Deacon if you know of a need. This information will be confidential.
- **CRWRC—Zakka Chomock** works with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) as the Justice Education Coordinator for West Africa. We have committed to support with him as our CRWRC missionary with prayers and offerings.

from the deacons

The Deacons report the following offerings from the past month with thanks:

March '11 General Fund Offerings:	\$ 26,999.77
Year To Date General Fund Offerings: (Fiscal Year June 2010-May 2011)	\$ 327,498.56
<u>Other March Offerings</u>	
Calvin Christian Tuition Aid	\$ 1,648.00
CRWRC-World Hunger/Peter Fish Campaign	\$ 776.00
Bob & Patti Harris	\$ 421.65
Green Oak Ranch Scholarship	\$ 50.00
Multiplication Network	\$ 933.00
CRWM-General	\$ 25.00

special offering

Dear Friends,

I know that we take a risk when our primary means of support from churches with Cadet clubs is a freewill offering, but God is good and the churches have always responded well. Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$350.25.

We use the offerings to help keep the cost of materials affordable and to expand the program. As an independent ministry, we receive no financial support from any denomination and rely heavily on the gifts of member churches and individuals. May God bless you in all your church's ministries.



Together in His service,
Calvinist Cadet Corps

Come join Calvin Christian School's
50th Anniversary



June 11, 2011

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. ~ HS Quad area

Delicious Tri-tip Meal served at 11:30 - freewill donation
Also hot dogs for the kids

~ Bring memorabilia to display on Memory Lane ~
Wear your Calvin shirts, hats & colors!

Classic Car Show * Games * Prizes * Trivia
Jumping Bubble * Water Slide

Alumni, Parents, Grandparents, Students,
Faculty and Friends of Calvin Christian
All are invited - Bring the kids!

Please RSVP by June 1, 2011

www.calvinchristianesccondido.org

Parents of Alumni: Please let your out-of-
town family members know about this special
event!

