

## To All the Philippians at Crossroads

In just a few weeks, we will begin an adventure: we'll spend 10 weeks "Dwelling with Philippians." Now, you might think that simply means that we are going to study the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians this Fall. And you would be correct.

But there's far more involved. Actually, we dwell every day with "Philippians"--or people just like them! Reading Paul's letter, one realizes that the church in Philippi is a lot like us here at Crossroads. The people have similar virtues and sins. And some of the same dynamics in that church occasionally show up in this one (and in every church).

So, in a sense, you might say that we are always "dwelling with Philippians." And through this letter (to them and us), God will speak into our lives and shows us the way to grow in Christ and together.

The letter itself is one of the most beloved letters of the Apostle Paul. It is both tender and bold, compassionate and prophetic, common and yet stunningly memorable. It's about joy and sorrow, fighting and making up, thanksgiving for the past and encouragement (and a bit of pleading) for the future. You will say, more often than not, "This relates to my life!"

Some of the most memorized passages of Scriptures are here (I hope you'll join me in memorizing some along the way!). Children learn this verse in church school: "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!*" (4:4). And many adults know these words about the Lord of our lives: "*One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*" (3:13-14). In this short letter of four chapters, you'll discover or recognize many other verses to delight in and dwell on.

So, while you learn the way of "dwelling with Philippians," I encourage you to grow richly in several ways:

1. Join the community here weekly as we worship the living God and hear God speak to us through the Word preached. If you miss a worship service, you can hear or watch the sermons online at [www.crossroadscrc.com](http://www.crossroadscrc.com) under the Sermons tab on the top of the page (Rick De Baan reports that last month over 750 audio sermons were downloaded and about 140 videos. Join them if you need to fill in a section of Philippians that you had to miss.).

2. Join a Life Group to talk about what God is showing us through the Bible passage. Last year, many people credited Life Groups with being a wonderful and transforming experience that allowed them to Grow as a Christ-follower, Connect with fellow Christians, and Serve others.

3. Follow the weekly devotional guides that will be distributed each week. As we did last year, we'll take a verse or two each day and ask a couple of brief, engaging questions that will help the text connect with daily life.

4. Get a copy of *Dwelling with Philippians* by John Witvliet (who preached here last year) and others. It's a beautiful book that follows the sections of Philippians. Through beautiful artwork, thought-provoking poetry, and engaging readings, it enriches your ability to hear God's word in the text. Take some extra time each week to meditate on the Philippians passage along with this book to enrich your Christ-centered life.

You and I "dwell with Philippians" all week long. Let's grow together in knowing how to do that well, to the glory of God.

**-Pastor Mark Vermaire**

# september church calendar

See page 4 for  
Life Group meeting time  
information.

## Sunday, September 4

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
5:00PM Middle School Youth  
Planning Meeting  
7:00PM High School Youth

## Sunday, September 11

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
11:00AM Middle School Youth  
Parent Meeting  
4:00PM High School Youth Orientation

## Tuesday, September 13

6:00PM Introduction to Crossroads

## Wednesday, September 14

7:00PM Administrative Committee  
Women's Book Group

## Saturday, September 17

7:00PM Middle School Youth

## Sunday, September 18

9:30AM Morning Worship Service  
(After worship)  
Life Group Leader  
Thank You Luncheon

## Monday, September 19

7:00PM Deacons Meeting

## Wednesday, September 21

7:00PM Council Meeting

## Saturday, September 24

1:00PM Middle School Youth

## Sunday, September 25

9:30AM Morning Worship Service

## Wednesday, September 28

7:00PM Elders Meeting  
Women's Book Group

## happy birthday

Chet Faber	09/02
Michael Plaisier	09/05
Kelly Vander Pol	09/06
Nathan Bakker	09/07
Sylvia Bons	09/07
Gary Groot	09/09☺
Kara Steenstra	09/10
Natasha Vos	09/10
Danae Lapka	09/12
Jayne Jansen	09/13
Lois Vander Pol	09/14
Gracie Cooper	09/14
Steve Katje	09/16
David Stout	09/16☺
George Tostado	09/16
Grace Vander Werf	09/17
Ted Mulder	09/18
Graeme Koch	09/19
Serena Carlson	09/20
Sherry Schwab	09/20
Aiden Beutlich	09/21
Eric de Jong	09/21
Joanie Geckler	09/22
Shelly Katje	09/22☺
Mike Wagenveld	09/23
Dawn Gomolka	09/25
Johnny Steenstra	09/25
Kim Bakker	09/26
Neville Koch	09/26
Jenny Varvel	09/26
Steven Katje	09/27
Dillon Gomolka	09/28

☺ = A "Special" Birthday

## happy anniversary

Christoph & Barbara Lebl	09/08
Arie & Sylvia Wilgenburg	09/16
Bernie & Marjorie Arendse	09/20
Brian & Christie Roberson	09/23

☺ = A "Special" Anniversary

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.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the following month.



The pictures to the right are from our potluck and slip-n-slide day with Camino al Cielo. This time of fellowship was enjoyed after our time of worship together!



Stephen Ministers are trained, lay, Christian caregivers. We are available to listen to, pray with, and support Crossroads members or friends during times of crisis and difficulty. Stephen Ministers are available for visits at home or in the hospital or care facility. Call Trena Boonstra if you have questions or a need. Fliers explaining SM are also available on a table in the foyer.



# september events calendar

## 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, September 8:** Serve breakfast at Interfaith
- **Thursday, September 15:** 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.

## SAN MARCOS LIBRARY EVENTS

### *Lapsit Storytime*

Date: Tuesdays (September 6, 13, 20, 27)

Start Time: 1100AM

Description: Stories, rhymes, songs and movement activities for infants and an accompanying adult.

### *Toddler & Preschool Storytime*

Date: Wednesdays (September 7, 14, 21, 28)

Start Time: 9:30AM/10:30am

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

## ESCONDIDO LIBRARY EVENTS

### *Rhymes and Reading Storytime*

Date: Mondays (September 6, 13, 20, 27)

Start Time: 11:00AM

Description: Join Merrily Cox as she shares songs, stories, fingerplays for Pre-Readers.

### *Cowboy Charlie*

Date: Thursdays (September 1, 8, 15, 29)

Start Time: 10:30AM

Description: Sing along with campfire songs.

## Summer Stories

Do you have exciting plans  
this summer?



Turn in a brief description of your summer travels and/or activities along with a picture if you'd like, and we'll include your story in an upcoming issue of *Connections*.

Send your story to:  
[office@crossroadscrc.com](mailto:office@crossroadscrc.com)



More pictures to the left from our potluck and slip-n-slide day with Camino al Cielo. If you couldn't make it this year, make sure you watch the bulletin so you can make it next year!



# Dwelling with Philippians

Groups begin September 18th.  
Sign up for a group today!

## FALL 2011

Cover Art: Gustav Klimt

### 1. Sunday Noon

Leader: Rod Koelewyn  
Place: Rod Koelewyn's home  
Time: Sundays/11:30AM

### 2. Sunday Night with Green Oak Ranch

Leader: Trena Boonstra  
Place: Green Oak Ranch Library  
Time: Sundays/5:30PM

### 3. Sunday Night

Leaders: Dirk & Joy Jasperse  
Place: Dirk & Joy Jasperse's home  
Time: Sundays/5:00PM

### 4. Monday Night

Leaders: Jeff & Marlys Hickox  
Place: Jeff & Marlys Hickox's home  
Time: Mondays/7:00PM

### 5. Tuesday Morning

Leader: Nettie Steenstra  
Place: Nettie Steenstra's home  
Time: Tuesdays/8:30AM

### 6. Tuesday Night (Family Friendly)

Leaders: Gordon & Sandy Geerdes  
Place: Crossroads  
Time: Tuesdays/6:30PM  
\*Childcare will be provided.\*

### 7. Tuesday Men's Group

Leader: Vic Varvel  
Place: Varvel's home  
Time: Tuesdays/7:15PM

### 8. Wednesday Night

Leaders: Jim & Anne DenOuden  
Place: Jim & Anne DenOuden's home  
Time: Wednesdays/7:00PM

### 9. Saturday Morning

Leader: Pastor Mark Vermaire  
Place: Pastor Mark Vermaire's home  
Time: Saturdays/7:30AM

- We will not be able to offer a group if too few people sign up. Sign up online at [www.crossroadscrc.com](http://www.crossroadscrc.com) and click on the Life Groups icon on the main page. Contact the office with any questions 760.744.4673.
- Purchase Dwelling with Philippians by John Witvliet and others: This beautiful, artistic book seeks to help us meditate on God's Word in new ways. (\$15, available at Crossroads; if you can't afford this, contact Pastor Mark or *Life Groups Coordinator Kim Bakker*--we want anyone who would benefit from a copy to have one.)

Connect,



Grow, Serve.

**YOUTH EDITION**

## middle school youth

### Middle School Youth Leaders:

Danae Lapka 760.432.8876

Dorinda Vander Pol

### Our meetings this month will be:

#### September 4 (Sunday): 5:00-7:00PM

Eighth grade leadership meeting and dinner at Danae's home. This is for eighth graders only and will be a time to plan for the upcoming year. Drop-off and pick-up will be at the Lapkas' (319 Whippoorwill Glen, Escondido). Dinner is provided. Please RSVP whether or not you are coming by September 2.

#### September 11 (Sunday): 11:00-11:15AM

Parent meeting after church in the youth room. Talk to Danae if you are unable to make this.

#### September 17 (Saturday): 7:00-9:00PM

Meeting at church for all sixth through eighth graders.

#### September 18 (Sunday):

Return emergency contact info papers to Danae or Dorinda.

#### September 24 (Saturday): 12:45-3:15PM

Playground ministry at Pioneer School with Mision Vida Nueva. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us for this service project. Drop-off and pick-up will be at Pioneer School in Escondido.

## high school youth

### High School Youth:

Anna Vos 760.317.7034

### Our meetings this month will be:

#### September 4 (Sunday) : 7:00-9:00PM

Weekly meeting

#### September 11 (Sunday) :4:00-7:00PM

High School Youth Group Orientation. There will be a Kids vs. Parents volleyball game followed by a BBQ and brief informational meeting at the Vos home. Bring a lawn chair for comfortable game viewing. Check your e-mail to RSVP to this event so that I can plan for food. This event is for kids and parents.

#### September 18 (Sunday) : 7:00-9:00PM

Weekly meeting

#### September 25 (Sunday) : 7:00-9:00PM

Weekly meeting

Call Anna with any questions. (760)317-7034

More pictures from our time with Camino al Cielo!



Does someone look a little bit more happy in these pictures compared to those on page 3? :)



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# Update from our Missionaries

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## Tuesday 23 August – An update as follows about Zakka Chomock;

Zakka shares that the therapy has gone on well so far. He is awaiting to meet with his doctor to set a date for a test to see if there has been improvement to the liver as compared to the test he did when he first arrived in Jos. Zakka continues to pray for healing and he has noticed some personal (positive) changes in his body for example, as he has lost weight in the last while, his legs became very dry as a result, now the skin has become smooth and supple again. Zakka's cough has reduced significantly. He now feels that he has a great voice (the hoarseness has abated) and he does not have as much difficulty talking. Zakka says that he is positively overwhelmed with visitors from friends and family and brothers and sisters who are praying with him that that the victory has been won and that Zakka says builds his faith. Though due to the overwhelming number of visitors, Zakka is considering moving to Abuja for complete rest (that also serves the body well) but all this will depend on what the doctor's diagnosis is regarding the treatment and the liver function. Zakka says that his hosts have been beyond wonderful. His niece who is a caterer even temporarily left her business to come and cook for Zakka so that he can eat the right kinds of foods (including fish), fruits and vegetables. Zakka says that Habiba and Dauda are doing well and they both remain faithful.



Zakka shares that he is so overwhelmed with love from near and far and would also appreciate prayers that;

- A) God will go ahead of all of us and will hasten the healing.
- B) Blessings will abound from the body of Christ in terms of gifts, fruits and other sustenance.
- C) His hosts have been able to give him excellent accommodation in every sense.
- D) God will bless his family and all his colleagues, friends, supporter and prayer warriors.



Below are some adapted excerpts from a letter from the **Multiplication Network** about the June 2011 China trip that Mike and Michael Wagenveld attended.

"Prayer is a powerful and effective tool! Thank you for interceding for the last China team. Your prayers were answered."

than Michael Wagenveld) had the privilege of meeting with Chinese believers. Please continue to pray that God will work in the hearts of these seven young people, that they will



"Six other young people (other than Michael Wagenveld) had the privilege of meeting with Chinese believers. Please continue to pray that God will work in the hearts of these seven young people, that they will develop hearts for the Chinese people as a result of this trip."

"Despite the crowds, humidity and new cultural surroundings, each team member did very well."

"After our work in Hong Kong was completed, we flew to Beijing and visited some of the cultural locations in the city. We also visited college students to help them with their English and went to an orphanage outside of Beijing where we ministered to children with special needs. It was evident that these experiences touched the hearts of the team members."

"We also had an opportunity to worship in a government approved church (Three Self Patriotic Movement Church) in Beijing where we celebrated the Lords Supper with our Chinese brothers and sisters."



## Do you want to make an impact on the House Church in China?

Pray for the persecuted church or join a trip to China.

The 2012 trip dates are June 22-July 4 and October 12-24.

**Contact the Multiplication Network if you are interested in joining the next trip 425.337.5676.**

# Update from our Church Family



## Summer Stories

This summer the Vos family spent two weeks in Michigan (four weeks for Kevin). While Kevin slaved away at Calvin College, Anna and the girls were able to sight see and visit friends. The whole family got to visit with the VanderWerfs at their Calvin College Seminary Housing. Anna and the girls spent a day at Sand Lake with Joel and Sarah Schreuder and family. The picture we submitted was taken at Joel's church league softball game. We are holding little Leah Schreuder. This summer we were reminded of God's provision in our lives. We were able to stay at the house of a colleague of Kevin's and the Schreuders offered us their car. We are thankful for the hospitality of the people of God and we hope to practice this hospitality in the coming year.

**-Kevin, Ana, Natasha, & Samantha Vos**

Summer travel for us involved a lot of long distance family time. Three of our children with their families live in Michigan and one with her family lives in Virginia. Rich's parents and sisters and families are in the Chicago area. Trena's sibling families are scattered all over the US and in Africa. We were blessed to be able to visit many of them this summer in one trip we made together and in several more trips Trena made alone. One of our visits involved helping Rich's dad celebrate his 90th birthday.

Many of you know just the two of us since our children have been out of the house for many years now. So attached is a picture of our clan--our children Rachel, Joel, Lydia, and Philip with their wonderful spouses and our current set of 5 grandchildren. *God is good.*



We are also looking forward to a 2 week trip taking a land tour and cruise to various parts of Alaska beginning August 29. We hope to travel with one of Trena's sisters and her husband. Never been that far north before.

**-Rich & Trena Boonstra**

## LIBRARY NEWS

A major addition to the library is a computer card catalog. Instructions are posted and you can search for items by title, author, subject, and type. Stop by and try it out. Instructions are also posted in regard to the shelving plan in the library. If you have questions about using the new system, see Trena Boonstra, Rick De Baan, or Rebecca Ligtenberg.

Books, DVDs, CDs, audio books, magazines, children's books, and videos are available for check out. Follow instructions posted in the library or on the Book Cart.

The Book Cart, now in a more prominent spot in the Lobby, is both a store and a library. Instructions for purchase or borrowing are posted.

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# september serving schedule

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## Worship Team [Danae Lapka]

- September 4: Vicki Van Essen, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Bill Stout, Denise Van Dyk, Ryan Bons
- September 11: Anita Termaat, Paul & Danae Lapka, Ashley Van Zante, Graeme Koch
- September 18: Guitarists, Jacob Stout, Cindy Kroon, Lindsey Vander Pol, Jake Bons
- September 25: Vicki Van Essen, Rebecca Ligtenberg, Bill Stout, Denise Van Dyk, Ryan Bons

## Children's Worship [Tami Schemper]

- September 4: Tami Schemper/Kari Plaisier, Megan Van Solkema, Jeremiah Stout
- September 11: Christina Faber, Ashley Van Zante, Emma Vander Pol
- September 18: Dotti Hejka, Jodi Van Solkema, Trevor Vander Pol
- September 25: Sherry Schwab, Dalia Tostado, Eric Tostado

## Nursery/Child Care [Heidi Vermaire & Jenny Varvel]

(\*denotes person in charge)

- September 4: Infant: \*Lindsey Vander Pol, Barry Diehl, Anna Van Solkema  
Toddler: Mike Wagenveld, Rob Janke, Luke Steenstra
- September 11: Infant: \*Josh Vermaire, Denise Cintas, David Gomolka  
Toddler: Mike Schwab, Mike Carlson, Emma Vander Pol
- September 18: Infant: \*Erin Spoelstra, Trena Boonstra, Robert de Jong  
Toddler: Sherry Schwab, Kari Plaisier, Johnny Steenstra
- September 25: Infant: \*Heidi Vermaire, Silva de Jong, Shane Carlson  
Toddler: Sandy Geerdes, Lindsey Van Engen, Joshua Bakker

## Ushers [Office]

- September 4: Brian Verhoeven (D), Adrian Voorkamp (D), Doug Van Solkema, Frank Zuidema, George teVelde
- September 11: Josh Vermaire (D), Gordon Geerdes (D), Mark Steenstra, Dotti Hejka, Henry Vander Pol
- September 18: Brian Verhoeven (D), Linda Van Solkema (D), Gary Burrie, Ineke Burrie, Joy Jasperse
- September 25: Adrian Voorkamp (D), Gordon Geerdes (D), Jim Kroon, Warren Van Dam, Mike Plaisier

## Refreshments [Suanne Varvel]

- September 4: (Anna) Anneke de Jong, Pete De Baan, Marilyn Faber, Christina Faber
- September 11: (Dicky) Danae Lapka, Linda Van Solkema, Marlys Hickox, Lois Vander Pol
- September 18: (Silva) Serena Carlson, Kim Bakker, Denise Diehl, Betsy Salzman
- September 25: (Anna) Anne Den Ouden, Jonneke Van Dam, Kari Plaisier, Sharon Upham

## Opening/Closing [Jeff Hickox]

- 09/04 Jeff Hickox  
09/11 Tanno Gomolka  
09/18 George Henry  
09/25 Jeff Hickox

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

## Sunday Greeters [Kathy Zuidema]

September:  
Arie & Sylvia Wilgenburg  
Doug & Donna Kallemeyn

## Sound Crew [Frank Bons]

- 09/04 Rick De Baan  
09/11 Randy Nagel  
09/18 George Tostado  
09/25 Frank Bons

## Projection Crew [Marlys Hickox]

- 09/04 Rod Koelewyn  
09/11 Linda Van Solkema  
09/18 Jeremiah Stout/Marlys Hickox  
09/25 Mike Schwab

## Video Crew [Danae Lapka]

- 09/04 Mark Bakker  
09/11 Jacob Stout  
09/18 Haley Voorkamp  
09/25 Sara Wagenveld

## Open Table [Elsa Stout]

September:  
Doug & Linda Van Solkema

# september offering schedule

<b>September 4:</b>	General Fund & Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid
<b>September 11:</b>	General Fund & Mirtha Villafane (CRHM)
<b>September 18:</b>	General Fund & Benevolence
<b>September 25:</b>	General Fund & Bob & Pattie Harris (CRWM)

- 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 '11-12 Budget commitment requires an average weekly offering of about \$7,642.77.**
- **Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid** is used to assist families from our church who are unable to pay full tuition. We are currently taking Tuition Aid applications. The 2011-2012 school year numbers that we are committed to paying will be announced at a later date. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this fund throughout the year.
- **Mirtha M. Villafañe R.** who is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church Home Missions is Crossroads new Home Missionary. 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.
- **CRWM—Bob and Patti Harris:** An offering will be received on September 25 to support the Harris' ministry in the Philippines. (We have committed to support them with \$2,000.00 per year.)

## from the deacons

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

July '11 General Fund Offerings:	\$	33,101.41
Year To Date General Fund Offerings:	\$	85,021.70
(Fiscal Year June 2010-May 2011)		
<u>Other July Offerings</u>		
Calvin Christian School Tuition Aid	\$	2,394.00
Interfaith Community Services	\$	395.63
Scott & Marcia Geurink (CRWM)	\$	433.00
CRWRC	\$	506.80
Zakka Chomock (CRWRC)	\$	885.00

Pastors enjoying fellowship together from Camino al Cielo, Crossroads and a visiting pastor from Florida!

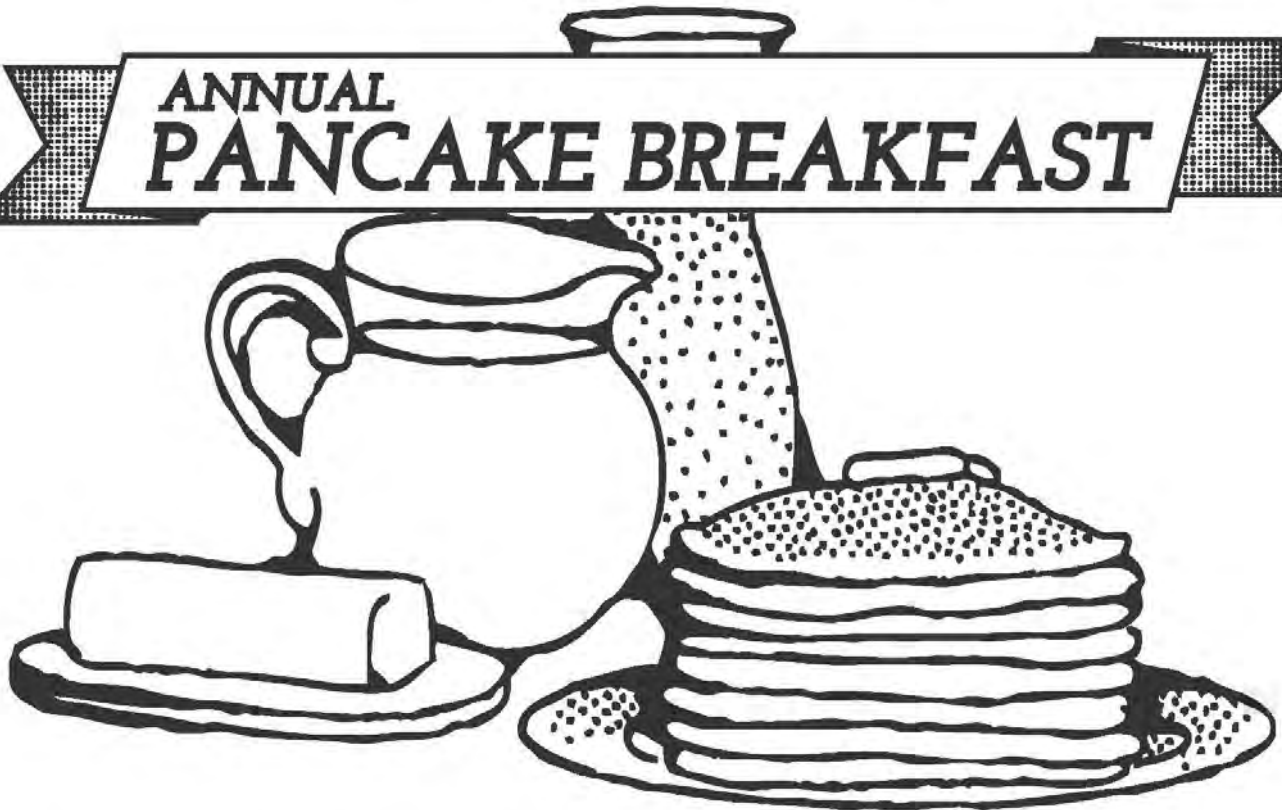


community event

# CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PRESENTS THE

## ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST



## BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

It's time to visit "old" friends & make new ones too. Come & enjoy this delicious breakfast of homemade pancakes & sausage.

**WHEN:** Labor Day - September 5th, 2011  
8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Calvin Christian School Gym

**COST:** \$4.00 per person  
\$2.50 per child 3-11 (Under 3 - Free)

Sponsored by the Mother's Club

**CalvinChristian**  
Connecting Faith & Learning SCHOOL