

The Cross and the Crown



Calvary United Methodist Church~ Los Angeles

Newsletter Date 12/2015

Volume 2 Issue 3

Editor's Commentary

I have invited a couple of friends, who say they are looking for a church home, to attend service at Calvary. So far that hasn't happened. When I questioned one of them about it she said she gets her "God fix" from TV (I won't mention the Tel-evangelists' name, but he is well known) and doesn't need to actually attend a church.

The number of people that feel they don't have to **go** to church to experience the Lord is increasing daily. Frankly I'm old school and surprised by that notion, but maybe I shouldn't be. Several Tel-evangelists have large followings of folks who watch and listen for 30 minutes to an hour or buy a tape/CD/DVD and feel that they have been in full connection with God.

I'm no Bible scholar but it seems to me there's a passage that says something about 2 or 3, not you and TV, gathered

together in His name. So I asked my friend some serious questions and wanted to know if her TV and my pew 3 experiences were similar:

Have you ever gotten "happy" just listening to the church choir? Has the choir's musical selection ever touched your heart? Your soul? Have you ever been so full of joy, healed/blessed/inspired by the musical selections that you wept? And as you cried with joy did a TV member, who was also weeping, give you a tissue to dry your eyes or pat your back? Could you tell the TV choir Amen and thanks for the musical blessing?

When you were down and out and everything was going wrong, when everything you did or touched failed, when you reached rock bottom and couldn't see your way out of the mire, and all you had was God...did the TV pastor visit you in the hospital or at home, pray with you, or call and open the Bible and begin to read scriptures that said things like my help cometh from the Lord?

When you suffered a setback, great loss, tragedy, catastrophic illness, or just some inconvenience that was frustrating...did a TV church member send a card, text, e-mail, call or visit you, bring a meal, or pick up your meds, and say healing words like "weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning".

Have you knelt in prayer at the TV altar so long that your knees began to ache, and the TV pastor came and laid hands on you or had the entire TV church surround you touching and agreeing with prayer?

My friend thanked me and said that I made some really good points.... She admitted that she had not had pew 3 experiences. She promised to come and visit Calvary and try to find a church home in 2016. We will see.

Making Disciples for Jesus Christ is not an easy job, but just like Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, it's a job that **still** needs doing.....just a thought... **To those whom much is given, much is required. Luke 12: 48**



Ministry

Imagine almost freezing as the wind blows your scant bedcovers and the rain is falling directly on you....not because it's time to buy new bed linens or the windows are open or the doors need weather stripping, or the roof leaks....but because you have no windows or walls or doors or roof. There is no heater, or fireside blazing bright. If you're lucky you have a plastic tent to ward off the elements.

Imagine that only a card board box is between your body and the cold concrete on which you sleep. No king/queen/full/twin sized pillow top mattress that can move up and down as required for your TV watching snack eating pleasure, with flannel sheets, thermal blankets, a down comforter, and electric blanket staving off the cold and keeping you toasty warm.

Imagine finding your next meal, in fact your only meal of the day, in a trash can or just discarded on the sidewalk like the garbage that folks more fortunate than you think the food is.

Imagine having no shoes, no socks, no jacket, no hat, no shelter, when the Southern Cali temperatures drop to the 30's and 40's and the weather folks

issue frost warnings and snow caps the mountains.

Imagine not taking a hot shower, or a tub bath, with or without the Jacuzzi jets roiling, or not brushing your teeth daily with/without toothpaste, or not having a real bathroom or private sanitary place to handle bodily functions.

Imagine having fought for your country, so that citizens just like yourself, may have what are considered to be creature comforts... what some think of as necessities for living even...and when the war is done and finally your battle weary mind and body make it home...those same comforts are not available to you, worse yet you are criticized, mocked, even hated for being in your situation after serving and defending an ungrateful nation.

The experiences described above are daily life experiences for an estimated 250,000 men, women, and children in Southern Cali. Calvary's Soup and Shoebbox Ministries are working hard to make a positive impact on as many lives as possible....one at a time is better than none at a time.

About 44,000 of those are within Calvary's sphere of influence. A couple of them call Calvary's front porch home.

We continue to strive to fulfill the goals of this valuable ministry. In 2016 we will expand our ministries to add distributing blankets and hats along with a

hearty meals and hygiene kits. We already claim success because the battle is not ours, it's the Lords.



For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, Ephesians 3:14

If Calvary did not exist, we would indeed be missed.



Calvary UMC ~ it's a Family Affair

One of the definitions for Family, found in Webster's dictionary (how many of us remember the dictionary...now a days folks Google everything), is: a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation: fellowship. Then we see that Webster defines Fellowship as a community of interest, activity, feeling, or experience. The companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms.

Sounds like Calvary United Methodist Church to me.

If you're looking for a church home with a family atmosphere, a God filled place where everyone will know your name, care about you and your loved ones, a place of fellowship, praise, and worship, where the name of Jesus is the password and the members love the Lord, a place where membership means walking the walk as well as talking the talk, where your children will learn about God and His love for them and all mankind...then come to church at the corner of Adams and Cloverdaleyou'll be pleased by what you find.



Pastor Ed and 1st Lady LaLa



Pictured: Delois Fort & Granddaughter Makenna



Pictured Ester Hernandez and daughter Maria



Pictured: Freda Morris, grandchildren Leilani, Kaden, and Jaid, daughter-in-law Carlena, Pastor Hawthorne and Coletto Inge



Pictured left to right: Kary Pounders and son La Mont



Pictured: Tracey Johnson with daughters Arianna & Kara



Calvary's 1st family. Pictured left to right Bishop Marc Hawthorne, 1st lady LaLa Hawthorne and Rev. Dr. Edward Hawthorne.



Pictured Flower Peoples and Cousin
Katie Scott

Family Night.....



Friday October 30, 2015

6 O'clock p.m.

Calvary Social Hall

It was a night of Games, Food,
and wholesome fun for all ages.
A safe and sane haven over the
Halloween weekend.

In the words of the song writer
"When all God's children get
together...what a time...what a
time...what a time"!!!



**And I commend joy, for man
has no good thing under the
sun but to eat and drink and
be joyful, for this will go with
him in his toil through the
days of his life that God has
given him under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 8:15**



Family Night cont....



Family Night cont....



But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8 ESV

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And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:18

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Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7 ESV

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# Baby Contest

**Saturday, October 10, 2015  
5 o'clock p.m.  
Calvary Social Hall**

There she is..... Miss Baby  
Calvary....There she is...she's our  
Queen

This annual event is hosted by the Calvary Senior Ministries Committee. This fundraiser allows parents and grandparents an opportunity to showcase their little darlings while supporting the financial needs of this ministry.

The Princess ~ London Marie



Royal Handmaiden Kenya

The Queen and Queen Grandmother



Princess London Marie & Parents



Royal Handmaiden Cydney & Parent



The Queen ~ Makenna



The Prince ~ Ryan



Prince Ryan and Royal Herald Jahmir welcoming the Masses, guided by the Royal Teacher Flower Peoples.



## Moments with the Children .....

"Moments with the Children" is that time in the service where the pastor interacts with the children and youth on their level. Life lessons are taught, and strategies for using their faith in God for every day success are shared, as they prepare to become adult Christians.

Pastor Hawthorne has a great passion for children. He lovingly gives them "life lessons". Listen to that inner voice, it is the Lord speaking to you...it will tell you when you are not safe, it will remind you of the things your parents have taught you when...stop and take heed when you begin to stray from those lessons. Be safe rust in the Lord and have friends that know and trust the Lord, Be obedient to God and keep your faith strong.

Pastor Hawthorne incorporates Sunday School lessons into his message for the children.

He also challenges them to become better Christians by knowing more about their faith: memorize John 3:16, memorize Psalm 23, and most recently learn the names of all 66 books of the Bible....in order of appearance.

The children stood before the congregation and recited what they had been tasked to learn. While most of the adults were

with them for John 3:16 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm...most of us were stuck with all the books of the Bible. Three children wowed us with their skills as they named each book in order from Genesis to Revelations.



**Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:15 NIV**



## Moments with the Children cont....



Bishop Marc Hawthorne of Houston, Texas brought the word...and the word was renewal...on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> - 5 p.m. and Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> - 10 a.m.

His message was simple yet powerful: pray for your enemy; always Humble yourself; you cannot bring worldly principles into the Kingdom of God; When God wants to manifest something in your life he first plants His seed in your heart; He speaks the word first; God expects us to believe that word and carry it full term until it manifests.

When God speaks to you he will tell you something that you cannot carry forth by yourself. The Father is glorified that when his word abides in you and you believe the word and the word manifests itself in the world. That means don't just dress up and come to church.

You must produce something to go to the next level in your worship.

It is not enough just to receive the word of God. 1 Corinthians 2:12. God wants you to start praying down your blessings from heaven.

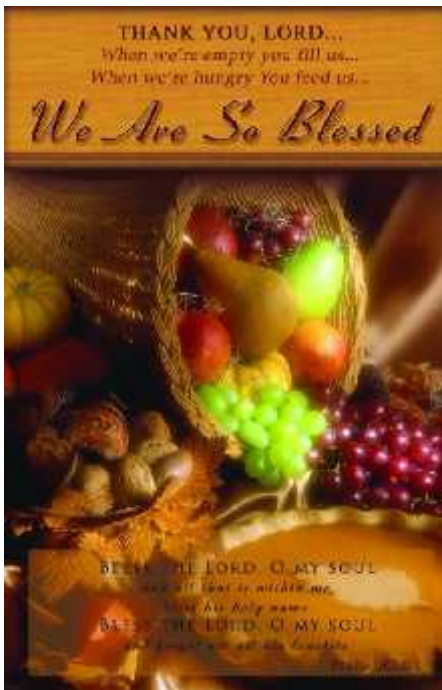
**Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:3-5 ESV**

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Revival cont...

I am who God said I am and I will manifest great things on the earth. Keep praying until your blessing shows up.

When God speaks a word into your heart Satan comes immediately. Get mature in your faith and prepare yourself for battle.



For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isaiah 57:15



Church Picnic....



Sunday September 20, 2015
10:00 a.m. at Ladera Park



Church Picnic cont....



Church Picnic cont....



Thanksgiving Feed the Community

For the past 30 years or so it's been a tradition at Calvary to ensure that a sumptuous Thanksgiving holiday meal is served to those, within our sphere of influence, who more than likely will not enjoy the delicious splendor of a lovingly prepared, good smelling, good looking, great tasting, make you pat your foot and hum or be absolutely silent while you

eat, and need a nap when you finish eating, meal.

We're talking a full meal including turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, string beans, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, punch and cake lovingly prepared by grandmothers, aunts, mothers, cousins, you know family food.... From back in the day when there was an adult and a children's table. Not that store bought stuff

Paris French and the children and youth of Calvary canvassed the neighborhood along Adams from Cloverdale to La Brea passing out fliers and inviting folks to come and partake of a blessing.

The real joy was in watching the children serve those who had come to enjoy the meal and seeing the appreciation in the faces of those who weren't sure from where their next meal would come. There was so much food that those who wished to also got a "to go" plate.

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:34 ESV

Feed the Community cont....

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. — Proverbs 22:9



Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. — Proverbs 14:31



Sometimes
I want to ask God
why He allows poverty, famine
and injustice in the world when He
could do something about it,
but I'm afraid He might just
ask me the
same question

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares **Hebrews 13:2 ESV**

Christ the King Celebration and Harvest Festival 2015



Bishop Carcano and Rev Gillespie

**Guest Speaker:
Resident Bishop
Rev. Dr. Minerva Carcano.**

**Sunday November 22, 2015
4 o'clock p.m.**



Pictured left to right: D.S. Wilborn,
Bishop Carcano, Pastor Hawthorne



This high holy service combined musical and traditional sermon formats for an evening of joy, joy, unspeakable joy in the Lord.

Red and White were the colors of the day. Trumpeters heralded the entry of the acolyte, banner bearers, clergy, and choir.

District Clergy present included Reverends Gillespie, Thomas Hill and Fredrick Johnson, and District Superintendent Wilborn.

The Bishop's message was clear. We must remember who we are and whose we are. We must take care of each other, even the least of us, as Christ did.

Holy Communion was led by the Bishop and served to the masses by all the clergy in attendance.

The day ended with a feast of Thanksgiving that included Turkey, dressing, yams, mashed potatoes, greens, green beans, dinner rolls, punch, peach cobbler, and sweet potato pie.



**Christ the King
Celebration cont....**



Pictured left to right Benjamin Garcia
and Michael Turner





Pastor Fredrick Johnson



Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.
Psalm 33:1-3



Wo/Men's Day



Sunday, September 27, 2015.

3 O'clock p.m.

Theme: Men and Women
Committed to God

Speaker:

Sudonna Moss- Logan



The message was based on scriptures from Proverbs, the "wisdom" book.

The lesson: being a Christian is a process and you must be prepared to stand the test.



Dr. Moss and Guests

Calvary's 2016 Planning Meeting

There's an old adage that says "Planning is the key to success." Calvary takes that adage seriously....how else could we accomplish so much in such a short time?

November 2015. So much had been done, but so much was left to do. It's amazing how much work is done when you actually sit down and chart it out.

Having successful, spirit filled, fun, family oriented, disciple making activities and services for the year requires planning. It allows you to visualize what you are doing well and not so well and allows us to strategize ways in which to make each activity less stressful and more successful.

Under the guidance of our Project Manager, Ms. Paris French, the leaders and members of Calvary came together on a Saturday morning. During this 4 hour session, our spirits were revived and our energy began to flow, we planned Calvary's activities for the 2016 calendar year, determined where we needed to concentrate more energy, and more effectively scheduled activities to ensure maximum success.

Most importantly we developed a strategy by which Calvary can make a positive impact in the

West Adams Community in which we exist and serve, accomplish the goals of the Cal-Pac West District, continue our ministries within our sphere of influence, and fulfill our vision for the church at the corner of Adams and Cloverdale.



Paris French at the "Calendar Board"



Planning Meeting attendees left to right: Hilda Ragland, Alan B. Ragland, Faye Walker, Jackie Peoples, Freda Morris, Juanita Lane, and Etta West. Not pictured: Pastor Hawthorne, and Jack Peoples.

"For I know the PLANS
I have for you"
declares the LORD
"plans to PROSPER you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE."
Jeremiah 29:1

Dear Lord,

Thank you for today. May you go before us and lead us. We pray that We would allow Your Holy Spirit to guide us today and that we would be a light to others.

May Your light shine through us and may Your love bless those around us. We pray that we would be patient, kind, and considerate.

We pray that your character would flow from us as we put others first. Use us as a vessel for your glory. In Jesus name, Amen.



Christmas Program 2015

“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

— Matthew 18:1-5

The children of Calvary carried the service, many dressed in their Christmas finery.

The smaller children, Makenna, Ryan, and Jahmir, told us about Jesus and invited us to join them in celebrating the birth of the Savior. A trio, Kaden, Jaid, and Freda Morris regaled the congregation with “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”

The youth performed a read play called “The Super Hero Counsel” It is the story of all the well-known super heroes coming together to discuss the birth of this new super hero named Jesus. They shared information gathered, using their super hero powers, about this person who was more powerful than all of them combined. One super hero thought that Jesus had come to take their super hero jobs.

Under the direction of Ricke Howell the children taught us about the love and power of the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes who came to save us from sin and death with humor and sincerity.



Pastor's Perspective

A Letter from Your Pastor



The True Origin of Christmas

Every year after Thanksgiving, most people's thoughts turn to Christmas. It is the time when professing Christians are supposed to focus on Jesus Christ. After all, it is the "Christ-mass" season!

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, holly wreaths, decorated trees, mistletoe, season's greetings, seasonal music, "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" and Santa Claus all is associated with this holiday. These all bring warm feelings to those who celebrate it.

Christmas is thought by most to be a wonderful time, focusing on giving, family togetherness, beautiful music and decorations, feasting on special foods and singing Christmas carols throughout the neighborhood. All of this is supposedly centered around the worship of Christ. Surely the

Bible instructs us to do all this—right?

The answers will shock you!

Why do people think that Christmas is wonderful? It certainly felt wonderful to me. I trusted what my parents told me. I had no reason to doubt them. They were merely teaching me what their parents had taught them. I never questioned the true origin of Christmas!

Most people never reflect on why they believe what they believe or do what they do. We live in a world filled with customs, but few ever seek to understand their origin. We generally accept them without question. Most people basically do what everyone else does—because it is easy and natural!

Let's carefully examine the roots of Christmas. Let's look at why people follow the customs associated with it. Why is it kept on December 25th? Did the early New Testament Church keep it? Let's avoid all assumptions and only accept facts and what can be **PROVEN!**

Pagan Origin

Nearly all aspects of Christmas observance have their roots in Roman custom and religion. "The earliest reference to Christmas being marked on Dec. 25 comes from the second century after Jesus' birth. It is considered that the first Christmas celebrations were in

reaction to the Roman religion of Sat-ur-na-li-a, a harvest festival that marked the winter solstice (one of the two times during the year when the sun is farthest north or south of the equator). The Romans honored and worshipped the planet Saturn, "*the god of sowing*". Saturnalia was a rowdy time, which was opposed by the still-minority Christian sect.

In defiance to the pagan religion of the Roman Empire, the Christians replaced the pagan worship of the sun with the worship of the Son. By 529 A.D., after Christianity had become the official state religion of the Roman Empire, Emperor Justinian made Christmas a civic holiday.

This is just a cursory look at the origins of Christmas. There is more.

ARE YOU SITTING DOWN!!!

Can Christ be honored by Christmas? The most common justification that one will hear regarding Christmas is that people have replaced old pagan customs and intents by asserting that they are now "focusing on Christ." I have heard many say that they are "honoring Christ" in their Christmas-keeping. The problem is that God does not say this is acceptable to Him! Actually, He plainly commands against it!

Keeping Christmas dishonors Christ! He considers everything about it to be an abomination! We will soon see why. Christ said, "But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (*"They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules"* Matt. 15:9.

Christmas is not a command of God—it is a tradition of men. Christ continued, *"Full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition"* And he continued, *"You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"* Mark 7:9.

Every year, throughout the world, on December 25th, hundreds of millions do just that! I know this may be difficult for some to read. But let us not remain ignorant with regard to biblical matters.

The bible tells us in John 8:32 **"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"**. In Colossians 2:8 Easy-to-Read Version it reads: *"Be sure you are not led away by the teaching of those who have nothing worth saying and only plan to deceive you. That teaching is not from Christ. It is only human tradition and comes from the powers that influence this world"*.

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Genesis 1 is an emphatic statement, it reveals the names

of the patriarchs that point to the New Testament Messiah (Jesus the Christ).

Below are the names of the Old Testament Patriarchs and their meaning:

1. Adam = Man
2. Seth = Appointed
3. Enosh = Mortal
4. Keenan = Sorrow
5. Mahalales = The Blessed of God
6. Jared = Shall Come Down
7. Enoch = Teaching
8. Methusaleh = His Death Shall Bring
9. Lamech = The
10. Noah = Comfort or Hope

Arrange their names into a sentence and you get the following:

**Man is Appointed Mortal Sorrowful, but The Blessed God Shall Come Down Teaching that His Death Shall Bring the Despairing Comfort or Rest.**

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Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; **2** but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. **3** They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not

wither. In all that they do, they prosper. **4** The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; **6** for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 1 NRSV





2016 Calendar of Events

Calvary United Methodist Church

5268 West Adams Boulevard ~ Los
Angeles, CA 90016

(213) 939-2037

Fax: (213) 939-0170

January 2016

January 19, 2016 – Charge
Conference at 7pm

January 23, 2016 – Hat &
Blanket Club for the Community
10am

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10 a.m.

February 2016

February 14, 2016 – Youth
Scholarship Brunch following
church service

February 28, 2016– Black
History Program 4pm

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

March 2016

March 6, 2016 – Church
Anniversary (\$94)

March 26, 2016 – Prayer
Breakfast at Calvary UMC
9:00am

March 27, 2016 – Easter
Sunday

March 2016 – Fundraiser TBD

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

April 2016

April 10, 2016 – United
Methodist Woman (Day
Service)

April 17, 2016 – Men's &
Woman's Day

April 30, 2016 – Family Night
(Shakey's Pizza)

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

Bible Study – Every
Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

May 2016

May 21, 2016 – Men of Calvary
BBQ

May 22, 2016 – Choir Day

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

Bible Study – Every
Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

June 2016

June 25, 2016 – Family Night

June 26, 2016 - Graduation
Ceremony (during service)

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

Bible Study – Every
Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

July 2016

July 2016 - Fundraiser TBD

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

Bible Study – Every
Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

August 2016

August 2016 – Vacation Bible
School (date pending UM
Dodger Night)

August 21, 2016 – United
Methodist Woman's Tea at 3pm

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

Bible Study – Every
Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

September 2016

September 18, 2016 - Picnic &
Fellowship at 10am

Sunday School 9am

Church Service 10am

Bible Study – Every
Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

Our Mission: Nurture a Closer Walk with God by:

- Being available to the membership and the community for Spiritual and Social needs.
- Providing discipleship, leadership and leadership training.
- Increasing awareness through community outreach and economic development.
- Building relationships with interfaith and multi-cultural communities.



Our Vision: Intentionally Glorify God

Through our joyful participation in worship, as evidenced through praise, the study of the word, and the observance of our Lord's Ordinances:

We envision children, youth and adults eagerly making their way to our worship services. Our prayers envision the number of tithers who will be part of this congregation's financial programs, empowering us to grow in numbers with great leadership of a full time Pastor.

We are committed to forms of worship and ministry that will best capture and express what God is doing in our generation and culture.

We are committed to a team model for ministry and organization that equips and empowers every member for discipleship. **We** seek to see individuals grow to new levels of spirituality through the teaching of God's Word.

Calvary UMC

Rev. Dr. Ed Hawthorne, Pastor

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Los Angeles, CA 90016

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Sunday School 9 a.m.

Church Service 10 a.m.

Hour of Prayer

Wednesday 7-8 p.m.

We're on Facebook

CalvaryUnitedMethodistChurch
LosAngeles

Our Webpage

CalvaryUnitedMethodist.weebly.
com

Leadership Council 1st Saturday

U.M. Women 3rd Saturday

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