

Hot Off the Press! 7/16/17

2017 — the 500th Anniversary of the PROTESTANT REFORMATION. 7TH IN A SERIES.



At the center of the block-long 'Reformation Wall' in Geneva Switzerland stand four 16 foot tall statues. In June, we introduced Wm Farel, God's 'talent scout' who

recruited Calvin to reform Geneva. Now, it's Calvin's turn.

WILLIAM FAREL (1489-1565); JOHN CALVIN (1509-1564)
THEODORE BEZA (1519-1605); JOHN KNOX (1513-1572)

A 'WANTED' PRODIGY FOR CHRIST

BY MICHAEL JORGENSEN, ASST PASTOR COLLEGE HILL PC

JOHN CALVIN (JEHAN CAUVIN) BORN 1509 IN NOYON FRANCE NORTH OF PARIS AND DIED 1564 IN GENEVA SWITZERLAND.

Few people in the 2,000 year history of the Christian church are more recognizable and controversial than John Calvin. High school students in AP European history learn about his influence on the political structure of Geneva. Theologians, pastors, and laity have continued to argue the merits of Calvinism, followers of John Calvin, over and against Arminianism, followers of Jacob Arminius.

A brilliant scholar, Calvin entered law school at age 20 and was fluent in Greek and Latin. Although raised in the Roman Catholic church, he did not have a meaningful religious experience until his conversion in 1533. Then at age 27, three years after becoming a Christian, the 'prodigy' published the first edition of his masterwork, *The Institutes of Christian Religion*. He wrote it as an elementary instruction book for anyone interested in the Christian faith. [What a contrast to many 'babes in the faith,' myself included, who struggled to find the motivation to attend church each Sunday.] Calvin would later revise and enlarge his *Institutes* several times. It has been a 'best seller' among scholars, theologians and pastors for the last 500 years!



CALVIN WITH GENEVA'S CHURCH AND CIVIC LEADERS IN 1549.

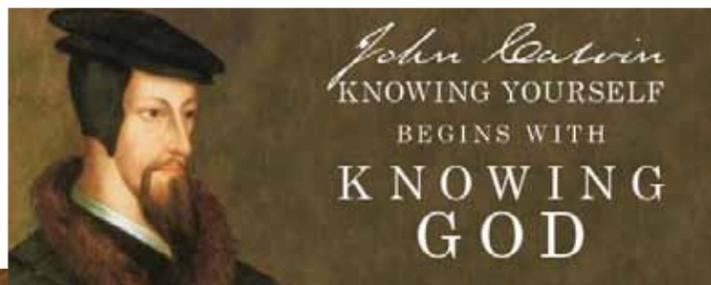
John Calvin's writing and preaching clearly refuted the teachings of the Roman Church. In France, he became a 'wanted' man with a price on his head. In fact, he was fleeing to Germany when he encountered William Farel in Geneva and was compelled by God to remain there.

Many are amazed by how much Calvin accomplished by age 55. Even more impressive is that he was only a Christian for the last 30 years of his life. The majority of Calvin's ministry was conducted in Geneva where his experience with the law and systematic theology was sorely tested.

16th century Geneva was probably a much more frightening place to build a church than any modern secular city. Initially, it was a city full of pain, suffering, and brokenness which Calvin confronted daily (for example, there was a law forbidding men from having more than one mistress). Calvin, Farel and others were used for major 'reformation' in this key European city.

Perhaps the best way to describe Calvin's personality is to say that he wouldn't care for this article unless the end result was people praising God. The sovereignty, supremacy, and goodness of God took top priority in Calvin's life. It led to famous quotes like this, "There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice [in God]."

Calvin's temperament was 'mellow and reserved,' in contrast to the fiery nature of his colleague Wm Farel, or of theologians Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli. One might wonder how such



a quiet man made so much noise on the international stage in politics and theology. Calvin explains, "A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent." Calvin wasn't interested in making a name for himself or being the center of controversy, but his commitment to the glory of God led him to action.

After reading several biographies of Calvin over the years, I relate to his temperament and native timidity. For those who share this characteristic, we ought to thank God for the example given to us in John Calvin and ask God to give us the same spirit of boldness in ministry in our often hostile world!

NEXT: Dr Thomas Sweets - John Knox BC (Before

THE REFORMATION SERIES — Through a group of writers called the Cincinnati Reformation Team you will meet some Reformers and learn from them why every believer has reason to celebrate God's ongoing work of Reformation. Look for yourself in these Reformers. God is still reforming us. The Reformers protested. That's why it's called the Protestant Reformation. The subjects, nature and effectiveness of the protests are as unique as the Reformers themselves.

THE JOHN CALVIN I LOVE

by Sam Stare, Elder

The cartoon at right captures one of Calvin's major teachings: the *total depravity of mankind*. As early as 400 AD, church leaders like St Augustine taught about the 'original sin' of Adam & Eve passed on to every person born into the world. Calvin said, "Apart from the efficacious, irresistible grace of God, we are utterly unable to choose to follow God or refrain from evil."

Calvin's really Good News was that *GOD enables us* to accept His loving gift of salvation by faith in *Christ alone*. When I acknowledged this, it was easy for me to 'give up' trying to run my life and making a mess of it. I confessed my sin and believed that Christ had died for ME. I experienced God's unconditional, liberating love for the first time. 48 years later, I still praise God for His *irresistible* grace.

The French Confession of Faith of 1559 was the only church confession framed by Calvin. [It was while studying this Confession that I discovered that John Calvin was born Jehan Cauvin and he wasn't Swiss, he was French!] In the French Confession, Calvin codified the practical implications of the Reformed Faith and unified French Huguenots — the French protestants who adopted Calvin's Reformed theology. Hundreds of thousands around the world have lived and died by this Confession.

Sola Scriptura — For Calvin, only the Bible could lead to a true knowledge of God and life. Without it, one is condemned to ignorance and sin. "Unless one has been taught by Holy Scripture," he wrote, "it is impossible to have even a slight taste of sound doctrine."

Calvin was a radical theologian. He taught three 'absolutes' as *divine revelations* rooted in Scripture —

- the sovereignty of God (over all He created for His own Glory);

HOW MANY CALVINISTS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?



I KNOW NOT. BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: THE LIGHT BULB WILL NOT CHANGE ITSELF.

- the equality of clergy and laity (natural equality, plus the equality of worth and dignity of every person); and
- the solidarity of mankind (the ties in a society that bind people together as one).

He preached, taught and lived these 'absolutes.' Calvin along with other 'free' thinkers of his time spread these radical concepts. They formed the theological bedrock of change — from life in Geneva to the American and French Revolutions to the Solidarity movement of 20th Century Poland.

Calvin found no biblical basis for the Roman Church's hierarchy of popes, cardinals, archbishops and bishops. So he established a biblical *Reformed* Form of Church Government: a *representative form of governance by Elders called by God and elected by the people being governed*. God-ordained Deacons, Pastors and Teachers serve as described in the New Testament. Calvin's Form of Government is in use today in Reformed Churches, especially Presbyterian ones.

Throughout his life, Calvin worked to establish the equally radical concept of *the separation of Church and State* in Geneva. Many of the signers of the *Declaration of Independence* and the *U.S. Constitution* came from Reformed Church backgrounds. It is no wonder that Calvin's Form of Government with its checks and balances and equality of Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches was key in the original design for the USA government of 1787.

On the 4th of July I reread the *Declaration of Independence*. I praised God for John Calvin and his theological heritage as I read these familiar words — ...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...

Over the years, I've grown to love and appreciate John Calvin. I urge you to learn more about him and why I'm very glad I didn't have to live in 16th Century Geneva with him!

Children & Youth Helpers in Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service, then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service. Just before the sermon, children will be dismissed to their special study and worship time.

This week's helpers are:
9:00am Jared L.
11:15am Amir J. / Ian S.

Next week's helpers are:
9:00am Bailey M.
11:15am Sarah L. / Monica V.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women Needed to develop relationships with girls from Pleasant Hill Academy while transporting them to and from SAY Soccer training. Help needed 2 nights/week; Aug/Sept/Oct. Please contact Kelley Foresman if willing to help: 417-6626.

It's Community National Night Out/Block Party time! The Community College Hill Block Party is **August 1-2** in the CHPC parking lot. This is an all hands on deck event... you can help with:

Cases of bottled water (you can't give too much – we need hundreds of cases!) We will start accepting water donations today (bring cases to the storage room next to the coke machine.

We need Volunteers (help before, during and after) There will be both sign-up sheets available in the Atrium and Sign-Up Genius.

Finances – we'll do the shopping for you! Make checks payable to **CHPC**, and put **Block Party** in the memo line. **Come to the Block Party**

Unity Walk – register on Tuesday, 8/1 at 5:30pm! Come and connect with the people of College Hill and bless our community. Contact Pastor Dennis @ 513-541-5676.

Young Adults The CHPC ministry for 20's and 30's is now meeting weekly on Thursday evenings. We gather to hang out, share food, and have some discussion. The location rotates regularly, contact Mike Jorgensen (mike.t.jorgensen@gmail.com) for more information!

Interested in praying for the CHPC community? Join the email prayer chain by going to www.chpc.org and clicking on receive prayer updates under quick links. If you have a request for the prayer chain, please include on the back of your connection card and indicate share on email prayer chain. Questions: contact Jeanne Schneider at jschneider@chpc.org.

LOST AND FOUND

Please check at the front desk if you think you may have left anything at CHPC. We will be clearing out the Lost and Found drawer after the 2nd service on 8/13.

SERVING AROUND THE WORLD

Andy and Emily Eatough of Wycliffe Bible Translators Note Date Change are with us this morning. Please come greet them in the Fireside Room between services and learn what God is doing with and for them.

God is calling the next generation of global workers to share the Gospel in creative ways. Join the World Mission Team in hearing from Joy Grace Chen and Vince Wilson about their recent trips, and in praying for our current and future workers. Meet at 12:45 pm in the Belwood dining room, at the back entrance of 1776 Larch Ave. in College Hill. Main dish provided, bring a salad or dessert if you are able. (The Eatoughs were previously scheduled, but they are with us July 16 instead.) All are welcome!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

SUMMER NURSERY HELPERS Looking for adults and teens who want to care for and show God's love to our youngest children (0-4 years old) in the nursery. Please contact Robyn Hubbuch (rhubbuch@chpc.org) if you would like to serve during the first or second service at least once a month in July and August.

SWIM LESSONS for Children, Youth & Adults American Red Cross Swim Lessons with an Eternal Difference. Brochures & Applications were mailed to former swimmers and are available to download at <http://chpc.org/forms/>. At North Hills Swim Club. Most levels offered at the same hour (10am, 11am, 12pm). Week #2: July 17-21; Week #3: July 31-Aug 4. ADULT LESSON: at Twin Towers' warm water pool: July 10-14 or July 24-28 (6-7pm) — fearful to stroke refinement.

One-on-one teaching at the beginning levels. 1 week of lessons is \$60 per swimmer; paid in two steps: \$30 to register; \$30 when the class is held. Limited scholarships. Questions: email CHPCSwimMinistry@aol.com or contact Sam Stare 513-382-5902. Apply early and reserve all weeks desired. Space is limited. Expect a lot of fun!

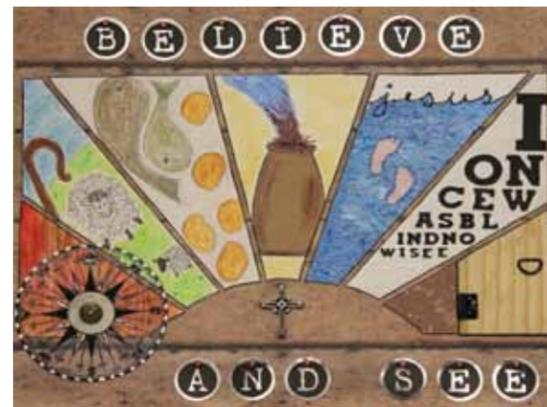
EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Race to Unity Rally - Calling Believers Together Across the Racial Divide July 28 & 29 at Peoples Church, 220 Wm. Howard Taft, Cincinnati, OH. Keynote Speakers: Dr. John Perkins, Scott Hagen & Ray McMillian. Dr. Jerry Kirk will also be speaking. Friday 7/28 from 7 - 9pm and Saturday, 7/29 from 9:30am - 1pm (lunch provided). RSVP to unity@racetounity.com

Please access the Summer Devotional online at:

believingjesus.net

Hard copies for the first 6 weeks of the Summer Devotional are also available as you leave today.



Prayer Page

"... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers," Romans 1:9

CHPC Community

Melanie Alexander	Bill Ringshauser
Vija Navarro	Richard Navarro
Rosa Brinkman	Tom Brinkman
Sharon Hall	Dennis Hall
Laverne Lay	Luke Verhagen

Staff

Perry Whitby - Custodian

Officers/Leadership

Steve Telecsan - Deacon

Home Bound/Health Center

Jessie Little

Ministries

MegaBlast

Global Workers

In the Military

Adam Steveley US Army	Chris Jaeger USMC
Cary Jaeger USMC	Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard
Zach Scharf Army National Guard	Nyjoel Baker US Air Force
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot	Will Connor US Army
Gus Carpenter US Marines	Andrew Deiters US Marines
Peter & Amanda Leugers US Navy	

College/Career Students

Kara Sauer	Colleen Sauer
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Believing Jesus

Through the book of John

July 16, 2017
Believing Jesus
Eat To Live

Preaching: Rev. Drew Smith

Welcome to College Hill Presbyterian Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Single, married, with children or not, there are many opportunities for knowing Christ, worshiping, personal growth and discipleship, service and ministry within the church and beyond the walls.

Visitors - Stop by the welcome table or the desk in the Atrium to find out more about College Hill Presbyterian. Return and become part of this dynamic Church Family.

Upcoming Services

July 23 **Believing Jesus - Jesus Goes Anywhere**

July 30 **Believing Jesus - See What Is Real**

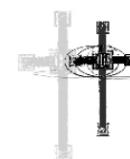
August 6 **Believing Jesus - Jesus Leads To Life**

Today's Order of Worship

Call To Worship & Opening Prayer
Songs of Praise
Time of Confession & Forgiveness
Passing the Peace
Song of Response
Scripture & Sermon
Pastoral Prayer
Offering / Closing Song
Announcements
Charge and Blessing
Postlude

Available Help

Ushers have copies of the song lyrics for the 9am service. Ushers can also provide help with wheelchairs and equipment for hearing assistance. Handicapped accessible restrooms are located off the exit hallway to the right side of the main platform. This exit also leads to handicapped parking spaces.



college hill presbyterian church

connecting . serving . celebrating
5742 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45224
(513)541-5676 . www.chpc.org



Committed to growing and planting flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ

A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS