

# Calvin Connection

Winter 2014

A quarterly publication for friends of Calvin Community

## 50 years in the making! Help build south lawn



Mark Teigland, President/CEO

In just a few months, on Sunday afternoon June 8, Calvin Community will celebrate its 50th anniversary! When the ground breaking took place in June of 1964, I can only wonder if those early “pioneers” in attendance could begin to imagine the thousands of lives that would be wonderfully impacted over the next 50 years.

Much has changed since the early years of Calvin – campus expansions, more options for levels of care, more time and energy spent satisfying regulatory requirements, and many new faces along the way.

However, the one constant over the years is our Christian faith basis in all that we strive to do. During the past years, and as we

look to the future, we recognize that it is not by our own strength that we perform our work each day, but it is by God’s leading, enabled by His power.

As I consider the solid foundation that has been laid by Calvin’s supporting churches, volunteers, boards of directors, employees, residents and their families, I know that Calvin Community can confidently face whatever challenges the future may bring. To God be the glory for all that He has done – and will continue to do!

## Help build south lawn

In early December, many of you noticed new concrete work and walkways being installed in the south lawn. This is all part of a master plan to transform the south lawn into a wonderful outdoor garden area for our residents and their families, staff, and friends.

Through a generous gift of one of our trustees Calvin hired the former owner of Heard Gardens, Bob Rennebohm and his daughter, Molly Wood, to develop a

[continued inside...](#)



Concrete pouring for the new gazebo. You can support the creation of this garden with a matched gift; call 277.6141 to learn more today.

## Have You Heard?

We had a great turnout at the **Christmas Open House** this year. Approximately 250 people shared in the merry fellowship and enjoyed some delicious food.

**Staff Changes:** You may have noticed some new faces around Calvin. In November office manager **Connie Winders** retired after 20 years of service to Calvin. She is currently enjoying the warm weather of Texas and we wish Connie the very best. **Jennifer Bergman** who has been at Calvin for almost 5 years and previously worked as the Health Center secretary has been chosen to take over that position.

The new Health Center secretary is **Jeremie Taylor** who was previously employed as a Med Aide in the Health Center and has worked at Calvin for the past three years.

There have been some changes in the Assisted Living Nursing Department as well. **Susan O'Connell** was promoted to RN Care Coordinator in October. Susan formerly worked as a nurse on the morning shift at Calvin and has been here for 4 years. The Dementia Care Coordinator is a newcomer to Calvin, **Jewl Russell**. Jewl was hired after the departure of **Melissa Schnucker** who moved to North Carolina in October. We welcome Jewl into the Calvin family.

**Mark your calendars** for a new event at Calvin! On Saturday, May 10 we will be hosting our first ever **Mother's Tea!** The tea will be held from 2-4 PM in the Main Lounge and all are welcome to attend at no charge. We hope to make this an annual event at Calvin.

## Profiles



Looking at these pictures of Gerry Rickert it is hard to believe there is 50 years between when they were taken. Gerry served on the very first Board of Directors at Calvin Community. He and his wife Mary joined Westminster Presbyterian in 1956 and became acquainted with the pastor there, Dr. Ted Yeates, who is the 'father' of Calvin Community. Gerry at the time was Chief Farm Appraiser at Banker's Life. Around this time Ruth Smith agreed to leave an 80 acre farm to Westminster with the stipulation that the proceeds from the sale of the farm be used to build a retirement home. Dr. Yeates asked Gerry to appraise the farm and thus his relationship with Calvin began. It was people like Gerry who laid the groundwork to make Calvin what it is today. Gerry is now a resident at Calvin along with his wife Mary. They are proud to call Calvin home for the last 6 years. Gerry is still actively volunteering at Calvin on the Resident Council and as a weekly library volunteer.

## Continued: south lawn project growing

master plan for the south lawn and our front yard. It turns out that 50 years ago Calvin purchased the land from the original Heard Gardens. A little serendipity!

This past year, a wind sculpture as well as a pilaster from the "old" Iowa Capital, were installed as part of the plan. In November, a new concrete walkway was installed along with a concrete pad that will be the foundation for an outdoor gazebo. To fund the gazebo and the many plantings that are part of the plan, two members of our board trustees have set forth a challenge grant. These donors will match - dollar

for dollar up to the cost of the gazebo - all funds donated by Calvin supporters, staff, residents and their families.

Just as we have spent many hours and dollars investing in our facility, it is now time to transform our south lawn and front yard into visual gems for the enjoyment of residents and their families, our many volunteers and staff... and the Beavertdale community.

We hope everyone will consider donating to our south lawn/front yard project... remembering that every dollar given will be matched by our two anonymous donors.

# New Year, New Trustees for Calvin

The New Year brings six new Trustees to the Calvin Community Foundation Board. Foundation Trustees are volunteers who come from the Des Moines area and help awareness regarding Calvin Community.



Left to right: Jana Erickson, Jeremy Hill, John Stone, Jude Conway, Rev. Claude Jones and Scott Valbert

**Jana Erickson** is the owner and creative director of the Erickson Agency, a marketing agency in Des Moines. She has worked in marketing design for almost 30 year and has created winning campaigns for large national accounts as well as smaller local businesses. Jana is a Master Gardener who previously lived in Beaverdale.

**Jeremy Hill** is the Vice President of Special Assets at Liberty Bank in Ankeny, Iowa. He has many years of experience in the banking and financial world. His community activities include the Des Moines Business Exchange Group, Teammates Mentoring Program at Johnston Middle School and the Lutheran Church of the Cross Financial Advising Program.

**John Stone** has been affiliated with Calvin for a number of years. He previously served on the Governance Board and his mother Phyllis currently resides at Calvin. John is a member

of Westminster Presbyterian and a former Treasurer on their church foundation. He previously worked as a self-employed CPA and is now the CFO at SACMI USA, Ltd.

**Jude Conway** is the founder & CEO of Entrepreneurial Advisors, Inc. in Des Moines. His previous employment experience includes managing venture capital funds, working as an executive with the State of Iowa and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurial Finance for Bradley University. He currently serves as Ruling Elder at Heartland Presbyterian Church, is a member of Leadership Council for the Presbytery of Des Moines and volunteers at Calvin in other roles besides the Foundation.

**Rev. Claude Jones** has served as a Board Member twice in the past, was Board President for one year; however, he is new to the Foundation position. Rev. Jones is a graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Claude has served in a variety of positions and churches in his career. He is now retired but serves as the current Chaplain at Calvin Community and as a part time pastor at Park Avenue Presbyterian church

**Scott Valbert** is Corporate Relations Manager for United Way of Central Iowa. In this role, he is responsible for raising more than \$3 million annually on behalf of the United Way. Prior to joining United Way, Scott held a variety of public relations and communications roles at companies including, The Principal, Bank of America and Wells Fargo. He is an award-winning magazine editor and writer. Has worked with trustee, Jana Erickson when both were working at ZLR Advertising. Scott is a proud resident of the Southwestern Hills area of Des Moines and enjoys volunteering, fitness and travel.

Visit [calvincommunity.org](http://calvincommunity.org) to learn about the Foundation and donate online.



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Ann's Activity Calendar

# Join us for Winter events

**The Chocolate Affair** – Friday, Feb. 14 at 2:00 PM in the Main Lounge. Join us as we celebrate the day of love with all things chocolate.

**Grandview Art Therapy** – Each Saturday from Feb. 15 through March 15 at 10:00 AM in the Rec Room. Instructor Roberta Victor merges students with residents as they explore art therapy together.

**Scott Johnson Piano Music** – Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 PM in the Main Lounge

**Winter Auxiliary Program** – Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 2:00 PM in the Main Lounge. Calvin's Auxiliary provides entertainment and snacks to residents.

**Grotesques in Des Moines** – March 3 at 10:00 AM. Author Jan Fleming describes historical stone carvings.

visit [calvincommunity.org](http://calvincommunity.org) for the full calendar of events

## 50th Anniversary calendars available!

We produced a 2014 wall calendar featuring photography from Calvin's first year – from construction to opening. Get your copy by calling 515.277.6141 today.

And mark June 8, 2014 on your calendar for our 50th Anniversary celebration.