

Calvary Church senior adult connect

FEBRUARY 2024

SPOTLIGHT RICH & VALERIE SCHOENERT

Rich and Valerie Schoenert both grew up in northeast New Jersey. Valerie came to faith in Christ at the age of 5 as a result of a Bible club, while Rich was converted during a Billy Graham Crusade in NYC. Although they attended the same high school, they did not know each other. Both attended Northeastern Bible College where they met.



Initially, due to his love for sports, Rich planned on attending Northeastern for a year to get some Bible background, then study physical education elsewhere and become a coach. But several things happened during his freshman year to change the direction of his life: a knee injury during a basketball game required surgery, and he began preaching weekly to 400 inmates at a county prison. Rich said, "God took away what for me was an idol, my love for sports, and replaced it with a desire to serve others." Rich describes this as the time God called him into ministry. So he continued to attend the Christian college.

They got married at the end of Rich's junior year. After graduation and a move to Massachusetts, Rich attended Gordon-Conwell Seminary, while Valerie worked in a bank. Following graduation, he pastored in Saline, MI, before being called to serve North Shore Community Baptist Church, the church he previously served as a part time youth pastor during his seminary years. "Here I was 32 years old and the pastor for many of my seminary professors who attended the church. Yikes!"

After serving North Shore for 12 years, one September day in 1987, Rich received a letter from the chair of the search committee at Calvary Church asking if he might be interested in becoming senior pastor. He wasn't. But the committee chair, Neil Whitehouse, persisted. On Easter Sunday, 1988, Rich began serving as our Senior Pastor. The following year, he completed doctoral studies at Gordon-Conwell.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SENIOR ADULT GET TOGETHER

Date: Thursday, February 8

Time: 1-3pm

Jeremiah & Vanessa Gamble will perform "The Psalm King."

SENIOR ADULT LUNCH

Date: Thursday, March 14

Time: 12-2pm

Featuring Charles Kemper.

SENIOR ADULT GET TOGETHER

Date: Thursday, April 11

Time: 1-3pm

calvarychurch.us/connect/events

LIFE GROUP TEACHERS / February

AMBASSADORS

**Foundations of Outreach,
Sharing Our Faith in Our
Circles of Influence**

KINGDOM BUILDERS

Feb 4 - Psalms (Russ Lunak)

Feb 11-25 - Sermon on the Mount (John Carlson)

EQUIPPERS

Six Worldviews Impact on Culture (Greg Bourgond)

calvarychurch.us/connect/groups

FROM PASTOR RALPH

To say that a lot has happened since the beginning of 2024 would be an understatement. Certainly, the biggest news for our church is the resignation of Pastor Shawn. I'm glad that many of you took the time to express your love and appreciation for Shawn and Becky at both of our campuses. If you didn't have a chance to speak with them, I encourage you to send them a letter or card. Their home address is: 8580 Allegheny Grove Blvd., Victoria, MN 55386.

Many of you are aware that one of Calvary Church's former pastors, Rev. Dr. Robert Frykholm, went to his heavenly home on January 17 at the age of 87. Pastor Bob, as he liked to be called, was ordained at Calvary Baptist Church and served as Calvary's pastor from 1961-1973. His memorial service will be at First Baptist Church of Colorado Springs on February 17. Gifts and cards in his memory can be sent to the church at: 317 E. Kiowa, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

I am confident that both Pastor Shawn and Pastor Bob would want our church, during this time of transition, to read, meditate on, and live out the words of the apostle Paul, inspired by the Spirit, in his letter to the Ephesians.

"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future."

"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all" Ephesians 4: 2-6 New Living Translation.

May we look back one year from now and confidently state that we have pursued, in the Spirit, the truths and admonitions these verses proclaim.

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REMINDER

Pastor Ralph will be having hernia surgery on February 14. He will return home that afternoon. However, he has been advised that it will take a few days for him to get back on his feet. If you need pastoral care or assistance during that time period (2/14-18), please contact Pastor Ben or Pastor Mike.

Rich explained, "We have many wonderful memories of our 24 years serving at Calvary Church. During construction of the Worship Center, staff offices were in rented space in Little Canada. We purchased and tore down a number of houses to expand our parking. At one point, we had five Sunday services in either the Activity Center or Worship Center. People parked a mile away at North Star Bank and took our shuttle bus. When we became multisite, we faced the challenge of figuring out how two churches could become one. We learned through a lot of missteps. But I especially treasure relationships with staff, board members, and others."

Over the years, Valerie served in the choir and as the leader of the greeters ministry at Roseville. She later enjoyed caring for children while their moms were attending MOPS at White Bear.

Together, they continue to enjoy watching sports, riding their recumbent trikes, and time with their 3 adult children (Rich, Tim, and Rachel) and 9 grandchildren, who range in age from 14 to 30.

In 2012, Rich felt that the church's future necessitated younger leadership, so he "retired." Rich stated, "It's always helpful to retire 'to' something because God wants to continue to use us." Rich has now helped six churches in transition as an Intentional Interim Pastor with VitalChurch Ministry, including North Shore in MA. Most recently, he served City Church, a Wooddale plant in SW Minneapolis. Rich explained that if an interim pastor preaches on Sundays, an intentional interim pastor does everything that a senior pastor would do: preach, oversee the staff, coach the leadership board and the pastoral search, address issues identified by a churchwide assessment, such as conflict, governance issues, becoming more outwardly focused, clarifying vision, and strengthening assimilation and discipleship.