

# Calvary Baptist Courier

## December 2009

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
42 Washington Blvd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 322-7256  
[www.calvarywilliamsport.com](http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com)

Rev. Peter C. Wilson, Pastor  
Sandra L. Snyder, Secretary

### *From the Pastor's Desk*

#### **CHECKING THOSE LISTS TWICE**

Are you making your lists yet? You know, those lists we all have to make this time of year? One that isn't too hard for me is my list of folks to send Christmas cards to. I pretty much just pull out last year's list. Then I look it over and make a few happy additions, and ... a few sad deletions.

Two other lists are important as well: preparations and gift-recipients. "Preparations" may look like this: \_\_\_ check Christmas tree lights \_\_\_ buy Christmas card postage stamps \_\_\_ buy spice mix for cider \_\_\_ decorate bush out front, etc. etc. etc. One item to think about at Advent time though, perhaps the most important thing you need to prepare, is ... yourself. Will Christmas be so busy this year that it will pass you by without truly "bringing you to Bethlehem"? You can add yourself to this list in a fairly simple way: \_\_\_ read daily Advent devotional booklet. Check your list! Don't forget! Prepare ... your self!

"Gift recipients" lists include all sorts of people: family members, secretary, newspaper carrier, ... Some gifts are fairly easy to choose; some take a lot of thought — or even asking some subtle questions. As you look at your list, let me ask you a not so subtle question. If Christmas is a birthday celebration ... have you included the One whose birthday it is? It's an odd birthday when everyone gives gifts to everyone else — except for giving a gift to the birthday person. What gift will you give to Jesus this year? Now change your list to look a little like this (only you fill in the blank after Jesus' name): "Gifts": \_\_\_ Johnny (football) \_\_\_ mail carrier (\$5) \_\_\_ Jesus (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_ Pastor Pete (12-lb box Belgian chocolates)

Have a Merry — and Blessed — and Awe-touched — Christmas 2009!

Shalom,

*Peter C. Wilson*

# December

## CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

B – Birthday

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>EACH SUNDAY:</b> 9:00 am – Kids & Adults light breakfast 9:25 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service	<b>EACH MONDAY:</b> Pastor's Day Off		<b>EACH WEDNESDAY:</b> 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer	<b>EACH THURSDAY:</b> 10 am-noon – Open Sanctuary & Library 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal		<b>EACH SATURDAY:</b> 9 AM – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting
		1	2 9-11:30 a.m. – Mother's Morning Out	3	4 7:00 p.m. – Decorate the church for Christmas	5
<b>6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Advent</b> Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service.	7	8  B – Vicki Lewis	9	10	11	12 <i>Hanukkah</i>
<b>13 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Advent</b> 7 p.m. – Carol Festival and Christmas ornament display  B – Marianne Hopkins	14	15 7 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	16 9-11:30 a.m. – Mother's Morning Out 7 p.m. – Congregation Business Meeting	17	18	19  B – Sarah Reid
<b>20 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Advent</b> Christmas Cantata <b>BROWN BAG SUN.</b> following worship serv. 2 p.m. – Caroling 3:30 p.m. – Parsonage Open House	21 <i>Winter Solstice</i> .	22	23 5-7 p.m. – AWANA Happy Birthday Jesus Party  B – Melia Lantz	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>  B – Gerry Bower	26
<b>27</b> 2009 Retrospective  "Catch up" Offer.	28	29	30  No AWANA	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 7 p.m. – Family Games Night		

# 2009

## COUNCIL NOTES

*By Jim Lewis*

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on November 24, 2009. As of October 31, we were \$7633.50 in the red. As a result of his operation, Pastor Pete is still unable to drive. He recently talked to Doris Updegrove who is doing much better. We are now entering advent season. There will not be a ministerium carol festival this year. Instead, Calvary plans to hold a carol festival on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M., inviting the other churches in the ministerium to attend. If you would like to assist/provide refreshments, contact committee head Kathy Temple. We are also planning a Christmas memento display for that date. Contact Pastor Pete if you have anything to display. Our Christmas cantata will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by caroling to the homebound and an open house at the parsonage in the afternoon. To conserve operating funds, services will move to Fellowship Hall beginning on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Since the Church Leadership Institute (CLI) meets in Fellowship Hall, we may use their projection equipment in our services. Contact Pastor Pete if you have any ideas in this regard or would like to help with this effort. We collected 253 items of dry and canned goods for the food kitchen during our "wall of cans" drive, and over \$90 from our bake sale on Election Day (not bad considering only 130 people voted here that day). The 2010 budget draft has been prepared for presentation at the congregational business meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Pete elected to forgo a recommended raise in consideration of our financial situation this year. We received a bid of \$2650 from Karaffa Construction to insulate the sanctuary. The council voted to accept the bid and Jim Lewis contacted Karaffa Construction and arranged for this project to proceed. Our thanks to Karen Mazzullo and Dave Lantz who have volunteered to fill in for Duane in the AWANA program while he is in the Dominican Republic beginning in mid-December. The AWANA group will be holding a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a 2009 retrospective in photographs on December 27<sup>th</sup>. All congregational participants are encouraged to participate in Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Since our two adult classes are rather small, we are considering combining the classes for the winter. Shirley Beyer will be the counter for December; Karen Mazzullo will be greeter; and Sue Green will manage the fellowship meal on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The annual hanging of the greens will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. If you would like to help with this effort, just show up. All volunteers are welcome.

### *December schedule of Sunday School lessons.*

12/6	The Lineage of David-Unlikely Ancestors
12/13	Prophets Foreshadow Messiah's Birth
12/20	Immanuel is Born
12/27	Messiah's Birth-Joy and Rage

Come and join us in December!

*From Sue Green:* The "Wall of Cans" project netted a collection of 253 cans and other food staples. This was a mission project of the A.B.W. of Calvary to help the Shepherd of the Street's Food Bank for Thanksgiving baskets. Our thanks go out to all who helped.

As stated above, mark your calendars for the Community Christmas Carol Festival at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 13, at Calvary Baptist. Plan to attend and enjoy sharing song and refreshments with your Calvary family and our neighbors from the ministerium. If you would like to donate cookies or other goodies for this event, contact Kathy Temple.

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If you have any news, updates, articles of interest, or upcoming events that you would like others to know about, please get this information to Helen Yoas by Wednesday, December 30, 2009 for the January 2010 issue of the *Calvary Baptist Courier*.

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to cut expenses, the Church Council has decided to change the way we send our newsletters. Previously, the church paid an annual "Bulk Mail" fee of \$150 plus approximately \$35 for each mailing. We are now handing out the newsletter to those attending the worship service and mailing only to those unable to attend. If you'd prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please email [CalvaryCourier@gmail.com](mailto:CalvaryCourier@gmail.com) with "subscribe" in the subject line.

**2009 Church Council:** Shirley Beyer, Sue Green, Jim Lewis, Vicki Lewis (Chair), Kathy Temple, Deb Titus, Emily Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member), Duane Yeagle, Helen Yoas