

Calvary Baptist Courier

December 2008

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
42 Washington Blvd.
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 322-7256

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



from the PASTOR'S desk

WHO'S ON YOUR GIFT LIST 2008?

Back when I used to do Children's Messages in the Sunday service, one of my favorites this time of year was "The Weird Birthday Party." One child was given the role of the birthday boy or girl and all the others were given wrapped boxes and gift bags. We sang "Happy Birthday to You" and then I had the kids all swap gifts; everyone got a gift or two except the one whose birthday we were celebrating!

After that, I asked the kids how they felt. They all agreed that it didn't make sense. "That was weird!" was a frequent opinion. Surely the one having the birthday is supposed to be given the gifts! By then all the grown-ups had figured out that this was a parable of our typical Christmas gift giving. We spend so much time thinking about, and money getting and sending, gifts to everyone but Jesus. Then I asked the kids, "What kind of gifts can we give Jesus this year to celebrate His world- and life-changing birth?"

Let me urge you to include Jesus on your "Christmas gift list 2008." Most of the gifts I've given people in recent years have been notices that a gift of honeybees or a goat or an apple tree has been given in their name to some needy family or village through a Christian mission agency. People have really been moved to hear that. (Catalogs for such giving are in the church lounge.)

This year I will mostly send jars of home-made apple butter I've purchased from Calvary (made and donated by Candy Clark) with a note that Calvary, at this time of its financial need, will also receive an extra donation from me in their name.

Do you think some of your gift recipients would be just as pleased, if not more, to hear that your gift to them this year is instead going to the church or to a Christian agency that really does need it?

Think of people on your gift list. Perhaps one or two of them would be pleased to be remembered this Christmas in that way. Certainly Jesus, and His body on earth today, and those He was born to die for, will be honored more fully in ways that truly matter and in ways that they should be.

Shalom,

Peter Wilson

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

If you have spoken to me about being baptized or about becoming a member of the church — or if you are interested and haven't spoken to me yet — please contact me soon so we can set dates and start preparation.

Thank you — Pastor Pete

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CALVARY KIDS PAGES

Re: Welcome

10/11/2008

My wife and I attend Valley View Church ... in Louisville, Kentucky. She works in the church "Media" Center ... and recently they started a "reading" program, for the children in kindergarten through 5th grade ... and the items I have been able to find on the "Calvary Kids" page ... for them to read, and color.... have been invaluable. Thank you VERY much! Yours in Christ. Ron Brown

The Power of Partnership ***ABCOPAD Biennial, October 2008***

By: Vicki Lewis

"The Power of Partnership" was the theme of the 18th Biennial of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Our church is associated with this group. The meeting was held October 24-26 in Altoona at the Blair County Convention Center.

Friday the 24th was Women's Day and featured Frank Frischkorn and Virginia Holmstrom. Frischkorn is ABCOPAD Executive Minister and Holmstrom is Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries. Her talk focused on the AB Women's Ministries National Mission Project with Global Impact: Break the Chains, Slavery in the 21st Century. She raised our awareness on the topic by informing us that approximately 800,000 to 900,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide. Between 18,000 and 20,000 of those victims are trafficked into the U.S. Finally, we learned that the majority of those are women and girls. AB Women's Ministries is sponsoring a national missions project. It is a fundraising effort and an awareness effort. You will hear more about this issue in the New Year.

Between speakers, reports, and luncheon, the attendees—both women and men—sang, prayed, and praised God. A clothing drive resulted in so many items being donated that special transportation had to be arranged, and a "tea basket" ministry was overwhelmed with items to be included in gift baskets.

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(from p. 3)

Friday night, the general session was opened with gathering music and greetings from friends of ABCOPAD. Music directors were Lois and Frank Clark. A reception was sponsored by Alderson Broadus College.

Saturday session featured special music from the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Bible Study with Dr. Stan Slade, and a report detailing the Executive Ministers report and vision statement, which is threefold:

To build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with Local Congregations
To build Healthy/Vital Partnerships with Pastoral Leaders
To build a Healthy/Vital Partnerships with our wider ABC family

The business session included the budget presentation, Partners in Ministry report, and election of officers. The proposal to restructure ABCUSA was featured in an early afternoon session.

Workshop sessions included Missions: **Coming to a Pew Near You**, stories of ethnic minorities forced to flee Burma and live in refugee camps in Thailand led by Marcia Binkley; **Preparing Leaders for the Global Church**, Stan Slade's missionary service takes him around the world to help missionaries and international partners prepare leaders for the global church; **Estate Planning: a Partnership in Ministry and Mission**, Principles of financial planning and estate stewardship were presented by Linda Cassel and Fred Daugherty; and **Engaging the Children in Poverty Initiative** was designed to bring together teachers, educators, pastors, and local church leaders to explore how to reach children in need in our own ministry contexts. It was presented by Rev. Dale Miller.

A "Celebrating Partnership" dinner was followed by an evening service that featured the work of partners, including Habitat, Salvation Army, American Rescue Workers, The Hope Center, and others.

The final session held on Sunday morning included a moving testimony from Mr. John Rai, who works with refugees in Bhutan, India, and Nepal.

Jim and I both enjoyed the Biennial. We saw old friends and made new ones, and learned about the issues Christians face and how American Baptists are addressing these issues. We came away inspired, informed, and renewed.

What's Next?? A yellow folder in the church library includes copies of reports and other documents if you'd like more details about the Biennial. One other result of the Biennial is that I've decided to conduct a year-long program on "**Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century.**" Get prepared to learn and pray about this important issue. More details in the next newsletter.

Vicki Lewis

Council Notes

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on November 18, 2008. These are the highlights of that meeting. As of the end of October, the church budget is \$233.56 in the red. The funds set aside for the sound system upgrade have been used to pay for the emergency repairs for the roof. These funds will be returned to the fund for the sound system upgrade as soon as they become available. Funds are not being donated to support the TV evangelism fund. Pastor Pete will bring this up during services. If funds to support this program are not forthcoming, the council will consider canceling the program. Pastor Pete noted that one individual has contacted him about membership, others about baptism. Anyone interested in either of these should contact him. Peter reminded us of the *World View* educational series and indicated he had not yet been contacted by anyone interested in participating. If you have an interest or would like information regarding this program, contact Pastor Pete. Janice M. Langjan, an old-time member long on the inactive membership roll has moved her membership to a church in Hahira, GA. The Christmas cantata will be presented on December 21st. The choir will present a warm-up presentation of the Christmas cantata at the Methodist church in Nisbet on December 14th. We will have a candlelight service here at 7 P.M. on Christmas Eve. For all interested parties, Sunday school classes are now being held in the foyer and the sanctuary to preclude from having to heat the Fellowship Hall. For any interested parties, Sunday school starts at 9:30 A.M. Ben Mazzullo will be teaching Sunday school for two weeks in December while the Lewis' are out of town. The retired Missionaries and Ministers offering will be collected on December 14th. American Leprosy Awareness Sunday is in January. The April and May fellowship meals which would normally fall on Easter and Mother's Day in 2009 will be held on April 19th and May 17th respectively. Emily Turney and Kathy Temple have agreed to run for the four council seats being vacated in January. Jim Lewis, who is currently on a one-year appointment, will run for a two-year appointment (since council members can only be elected for up to three consecutive years). The nominating committee is still looking for someone to fill the fourth slot. Joel Reid gave a presentation on the status of our investment accounts and the dates they will be available to help defray the cost of recent repairs to the church roof and the parsonage plumbing system. The sewer repair bill for the parsonage came to nearly \$16 thousand with a bill for permanent repair for the street that was dug up to come in the spring. Chris Coakley (the new pastor at Central Baptist Church), who did our roof repairs on the sanctuary advised Pastor Pete that he intends to tithe part of his bill back to our church. There will be no AWANA program on November 26th, December 24th or December 31st. The funds raised (around \$300) from the election bake sale will be applied to current expenses. The council is considering holding the semiannual business meetings on Sunday following fellowship meals in the future in order to improve attendance. Pastor Pete noted that we have had some residents in the area parking without permission in our parking lot. He has been placing notes on windshields and is considering having vehicles towed if they are not removed. He noted that the sign that says that our lot is "church parking" needs to be amended to say "Calvary Baptist church parking". This was pointed out to him when he confronted someone attending a service at the Rescue Workers church. Pastor Pete is considering holding a New Year's Eve service. If you are interested in participating, please contact him. The advent wreath will be put up on November 30th; the sanctuary will be decorated on December 5th and undecorated on January 2nd (games night). The counter for December will be Shirley Beyer; the greeter will be Karen Mazzullo; and Marianne Hopkins will manage the fellowship meal. The next council meeting will be December 16th. The congregational business meeting will be on December 17th at 7 P.M. For all those involved with the various council committees, annual report inputs are due to Sandy Snyder by January 14th. Pastor Pete is looking for input from individuals on how holiday services can be made a more "religious" experience. If you have any ideas, contact him.

1869-2008
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<http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com>

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 Friday, January 2, 2009 for the January issue of the *Calvary Baptist Courier* (to be distributed January 4.)

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 with "subscribe" in the subject line.

2008 Church Council: Shirley Beyer, Sue Green, Jack Hopkins, Jim Lewis, Vicki Lewis (Chair), Sarah Reid, Wanda Reid, Sandy Snyder, Robin Turney, Duane Yeagle, Helen Yoas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

B – Birthday

December

<p><i>Sun</i></p>	<p><u>EACH MONDAY:</u> Pastor's Day Off <i>Mon</i></p>	<p><i>Tue</i></p>	<p><u>EACH WEDNESDAY:</u> 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer <i>Wed</i></p>	<p><u>EACH THURSDAY:</u> 10am-noon – Open Sanctuary & Library 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal <i>Thu</i></p>	<p><i>Fri</i></p>	<p><u>EACH SATURDAY:</u> 9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting <i>Sat</i></p>
<p><u>EACH SUNDAY:</u> 9:10 am – Sun. School Open 9:30 am – S. S. Classes 10:40 am – Worship Service</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 7 p.m. – Decorate church and Family Games Night</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 <i>2nd Sun. in Advent</i></p>	<p>8 B – Vicki Lewis</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 B – Marianne Hopkins</p>
<p>14 <i>3rd Sun. in Advent</i> Ret. M & M Offering Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) 7p.m. – Christmas Carol Festival at Central Baptist</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>17 7:00 p.m. – Congregational Business Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 B – Sarah Reid</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 <i>4th Sun. in Advent</i> Calvary Christmas Cantata 3 pm – Caroling to homebound 4:30 pm – Pastor's Annual Open House</p>	<p>22 <i>Hanukkah</i></p>	<p>23 B – Melia Lantz</p>	<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service NO AWANA</p>	<p>25 <i>CHRISTMAS</i> B – Geraldine Bower</p>	<p>26 <i>Kwanzaa</i> <i>(until January 1)</i></p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 “catch up” Offering B – Lula Wolfe</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> NO AWANA NO Wednesday Evening Service</p>			

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