

# Calvary Baptist Courier

## December 2011

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

### A Martyr's Christmas Challenge

At our December pastors' fellowship, Scott Warren, pastor of the Muncy Baptist Church, shared some thoughts on Christmas from a book excerpt that you will find elsewhere in this newsletter. The book is *Through Gates of Splendor*, by Elizabeth Elliot (available in our church library), and the excerpt is from the journal of Nate Saint, one of the five missionaries who were speared to death by jungle Indians in Ecuador on Sunday, January 8, 1956, while trying to bring them the Gospel.

Nate Saint's thoughts ought to help focus yours and mine during this busy season which can easily fly by, dominated by so many peripheral matters associated with our annual commemoration of Jesus' birth. Just as Nate Saint and Elizabeth Elliot's husband and three other fine young men gave their lives bringing light into human darkness, so did that baby in the manger give His life—also brutally—in doing the same.

May this Christmas bring each of us a few moments of profound awareness of this, of where the first Christmas led to, and thus lead us to care more about, and sacrifice more, to bring the Gospel to unsaved people both far and very near. May our hearts line up more completely with God's heart for people who are still so lost in the powers of sin and darkness.

Shalom,

*Peter P. Lee*

## Council Notes

by James D. Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on November 8, 2011. This is a synopsis of that meeting. As of the end of October, we are \$12,130.41 in the red. Sunday services with the Moses theme will continue through Advent. The Wednesday night Bible study group is currently studying Ephesians. Emily Turney was married this past month. We wish them both the best. Pastor Bob Berger won't be teaching his normal CLI class in January due to personal commitments and the passing of his wife, Eileen. Our hearts go out to him. Those who participated in the Election Day bake sale enjoyed interacting with the local community. During that bake sale, some anonymous individual left a \$100 bill in the donation basket! Pastor Pete is once again encouraging anyone with musical talents (voice or instrumental) to consider using that talent during a future church service. The World Mission Offering collection is currently ongoing. Vicki Lewis and Duane Yeagle have agreed to return to the council (assuming congregational approval) next year. We could still use another volunteer for the council. The Christmas poinsettias, (purchased by members who don't desire to take them home) which are normally distributed to the homebound will, this year, be distributed to one of the local nursing homes (we don't have many homebound anymore). The Finance Committee has put together a budget (that is about \$6000 less than this year's budget) for 2012 that will be presented to the congregation at the business meeting in December. East End Lumber has submitted a bid for parsonage repairs that totals a little over \$12,000. The council agreed that we should pursue this bid and will (past tense by the time this comes out) hold a special congregational business meeting during church services on November 13th for congregational approval. (There is an acceptance deadline of December 1st on this bid.) The Stone Soup meal sponsored by the Baptist Women of the church went well. This group also is making little dresses for Africa in November. Members who participated in the Election Day bake sale reported some good community interaction. Those who assisted with the Outflow battery distribution also reported some positive feedback from the community. There are two more opportunities for those who have not yet had their pictures taken for the church directory to do so. Information is available in the church lounge. The Ministerium multi-church Christmas musicale which so many have enjoyed in the past is in limbo since the church that led that effort has bowed out. Accordingly, Pastor Pete plans on holding our own musicale here and intends to invite other churches to participate. This is tentatively set for December 11th. (*Note: since cancelled*). We will also be out Christmas caroling in the local area on December 18th starting at 3 P.M. to be followed with an open house at the parsonage at 4 P.M. Christmas Eve services on December 24th will be at 6:30 P.M. Our annual photo retrospective will be presented on the first Sunday in January 2012. The greeter for December will be Penny Ohnmeiss. The counters for December will be Kathy Temple and Jim Lewis. The fellowship meal coordinator for December will be Doris Paulhamus. Hanging of the greens (decorating the sanctuary) will be during the Sunday school hour on November 27th. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this so that we can get it done before services. Plan to be there if you can. The regular congregational business meeting will be December 14th at 7:00 P.M. The next council meeting will be December 13th at 7:30 P.M.



### *Recipe for the Holiday season*

*1 cup faith*

*1 cup hope*

*1 cup charity*

*Mix well. Best if shared with family and friends.*

## Something New, Something Old for Adult Sunday School

As was reported last month, beginning December 4, the adult Sunday school took up the *something new*, a new twelve-week study course. And the *something old*? The subject of the quarter's lessons will be **Old Testament Characters**.

The next quarter from December to March, will use an InterVarsity Press guide of that title for a look at some figures of the Old Testament—some of whom are very familiar, such as Abraham or Jonah, and some not so familiar, such as Hannah and Achan (does the importance of those names immediately jump to mind?).

We have found that use of the InterVarsity Press study guides leads to stimulating and interesting group discussions that often go far afield from the text, adding to our understanding of Scripture and our Christian walk.

Here is a listing of the chapter headings:

Getting the Most From *Old Testament Characters*

1. Jonah: Running from God - *Jonah 1:1--3:3*
2. Hannah: Praying in Pain - *1 Samuel 1*
3. Samuel: Hearing God's Voice - *1 Samuel 3*
4. Abraham: Following God's Call - *Genesis 12*
5. Caleb & Joshua: Overcoming the Impossible - *Numbers 13:26--14:10*
6. Elijah: Knowing God's Power - *1 Kings 18:16-40*
7. Achan: Sin in the Community - *Joshua 7*
8. King Saul: Doing Almost All of God's Will - *1 Samuel 15:1-23*
9. Daniel: Tempted to Compromise - *Daniel 1*
10. Esther: Saying Yes to God - *Esther 4*
11. David: Loving Your Enemy - *1 Samuel 24*
12. Moses: Seeking Justice - *Exodus 2:11-25*

You may still join the study group for a faith-enhancing Sunday morning.

***Excerpt from Through Gates of Splendor***, by Elizabeth Elliot, about the martyrdom of her husband Jim Elliot and four other young missionaries.

“As you listen to these words from one of heaven’s heroes, listen knowing this is the heart of God about Christmas—maybe better than any card you’ll read or sermon you’ll hear. Here’s what Nate Saint wrote in his journal on December 18:

‘As we have a high old time this Christmas, may we who know Christ hear the cry of the damned as they hurtle headlong into the Christless night without ever having a chance. May we be moved with compassion as our Lord was. May we shed tears of repentance for these we have failed to bring out of the darkness. Beyond the smiling scenes of Bethlehem, may we see the crushing agony of Golgotha. May God give us a new vision of His will concerning the lost—and our responsibility.’

Twenty-one days later, Nate Saint died, attempting to rescue some of those very people.”

# Calvary News

**Do you hear what I hear?**- If you're unable to be in church on Sunday mornings, whether by distance or circumstance, you can still hear Pastor Pete's sermon on the church website, [www.calvarywilliamsport.com](http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com). You can listen to the most recent in the series from the Book of Exodus, as Pastor Pete brings to life the words of Moses. Please join us!

## A CHRISTMAS TREAT

Straight from Kathy Temple's kitchen: her very special (and very delicious) fudge recipes. This wonderful fudge was probably responsible for a substantial portion of the \$182.00 the church made from donations for the Election Day "bake sale." If you try the recipes, don't be surprised if you get plenty of volunteers to see if it turns out as good as Kathy's!

*Note from Kathy: when making these recipes I always use a candy thermometer, but you can use the old-fashioned method to test by dropping syrup into a glass of cold water and, if it forms a ball when it hits the cold water, it's done. I also usually use a jelly-roll sized cookie sheet to pour the fudge in. When you cut it, it goes farther and it's not so thick: that way you can eat more! Do **NOT** double either recipe if you are not using a candy thermometer; it will not set up properly. This directive came from the elderly lady who shared these recipes with me. She was right.*

### Peanut Mallow Fudge

2 cups sugar	2/3 cup milk	7 oz. jar marshmallow cream
12 oz. jar peanut butter (chunky or smooth)		1 tsp. vanilla

Cook sugar and milk over medium heat to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Cover and cook 2 minutes; uncover and cook until it reaches 238° on candy thermometer, or soft ball stage (usually about 5 more minutes of boiling). Remove from heat; stir in marshmallow, vanilla, and peanut butter. Pour into buttered pan. Cool completely; cut into squares and store in air-tight containers.

### Fantasy Fudge

3 cups sugar	3/4 cup margarine (not soft tub kind)	
2/3 cup (6 oz. can) evaporated milk	12 oz. bag semi-sweet chocolate chips	
7 oz. jar marshmallow cream	1 cup chopped nuts (optional)	1 tsp. vanilla

Combine sugar, margarine, and evaporated milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until it reaches 238° on candy thermometer, or soft ball stage. This will take 5-7 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate chips, marshmallow cream, vanilla, and nuts. Pour into buttered pan. Cool completely; cut into squares and store in air-tight containers.

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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 submit this information to Helen Yoas for the January 2012 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.**

**2011 Church Council:** Shirley Beyer, Ken Bower, Donna Camp, Larry Green, Sue Green, Jim Lewis (church clerk, ex officio member), Ben Mazzullo, Penny Ohnmeiss, Kathy Temple (moderator), Deb Titus, Lynn Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member), Dan Yoas

# 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 WEDNESDAY:</b> 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer	<b>EACH THURSDAY:</b> 2-4 pm – International Women's Program 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal		<b>EACH SATURDAY:</b> 9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting
<b>EACH SUNDAY:</b> 9:30 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service	<b>EACH MONDAY:</b> Pastor's Day Off  3-5 pm - International Women's Program			1	2 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	3
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent  Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following worship service	5	6	7	8  B – Vicki Lewis	9	10
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent	12	13 7:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting  B – Marianne Hopkins	14 7:00 p.m. – Prayer Meeting followed by Congregational Business Meeting	15	16	17
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent 3:00 p.m. – Caroling followed by Open House at parsonage	19	20	21 AWANA "Happy Birthday Jesus" Party	22	23  B – Melia Lantz	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 CHRISTMAS  "catch up" offering	26 NO International Women's Program	27	28 NO AWANA	29 NO International Women's Program	30	31 New Year's Eve

# 2011