

Calvary Baptist Courier

December 2013

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

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

Emmanuel

Emmanuel (Hebrew: *im*—with; *anu*—us; *el*—God) is a phrase meaning “God is with us.” It refers to Jesus in Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) and appears at the very beginning (Matthew 1:23) and is echoed at the very end (Matthew 28:20—“I am with you always”) of the gospel. As you hear this phrase/name repeated in the Advent weeks ahead, let it sink in in several ways:

1. Emmanuel (God is with us) is a COSMIC truth. The other day I heard a space researcher being interviewed about earth-like planets around far-off stars and the question was asked, “Are we alone?” The miracles of Jesus, and providential miracles recorded elsewhere in scripture, are evidence that we are not alone in this universe. God is with us.
2. Emmanuel (God is with us) is a COMFORTING truth. You and I as the sheep of His flock will never be left alone. It is His final promise, perhaps because He knows how often we will feel deserted. I’ve learned that He can also be counted on to be with that other person who I am worrying about, caring for them in ways I cannot see.
3. Emmanuel (God is with us) is a CHALLENGING truth. Who I am with can make a big difference in my behavior. I don’t want my behavior to disappoint people I respect or need. That Jesus is with me is a guard away from some behaviors. It is also a goad towards others. As I interact with people, that phrase keeps me in mind that I may be their contact point with the saving power of the gospel. And as I interact with the creation, that phrase reminds me to praise Him and thank Him for creating it and blessing me with it and being with me to enjoy it.

May the prophesied, awesome, life-changing truth of “Emmanuel” sink deeply into us all this Advent season.

Shalom,



COUNCIL NOTES

By Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on November 19, 2013. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of the end of October, our expenditures were \$2,794.63 less than we took in. Pastor Pete is continuing his trek through the books of the Bible. It has been an interesting trip so far. Dottie Blanchard was accepted into membership by the church on November 10, 2013. Welcome aboard Dottie; we are all happy to have you here with us. Pastor Pete is looking for input from the congregation on anything they would like to see during Advent (special music, solos {looking for volunteers}, etc.). If you would like to volunteer (or if you have any ideas, see Pastor Pete. The adult Sunday School class will be starting a new quarterly in December. This would be a great time for anyone who isn't currently participating to start doing so ... Thirty-three Christmas boxes were dropped off in November for the Christmas Child program. Thanks to all who participated in this effort. We will be collecting for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fund in December. Please give generously. Our goal is to raise \$650 for this fund. The election bake sale brought in \$60 for the building fund: not bad for an off year for elections. The council is still looking for candidates for council membership for next year. If you are approached, please consider your response prayerfully. There will be a congregational business meeting on December 18th at 7 p.m. One of the items of discussion will be the proposed church budget for 2014. Please be sure to attend. The council is still working on financing for the purchase of the house next to the current parsonage. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, just note it on your offering envelope. The ladies of the church will be holding their Christmas Tea on December 7th. See Sue Green for details. The Baptist Women's group has created about 100 pillowcase dresses for Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The Lord will bless them for their efforts. The December fellowship meal will be held on December 8th rather than the 1st, so that the international group can participate. The hanging of the greens is scheduled for December 1st during the Sunday School hour. All participants are welcome. We will be carolling at several of the local assisted care facilities in the area on December 15th, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to participate; the more the merrier. The greeters for December will be Darlene Nixon and Penny Ohnmeiss; the counters for December will be Sandy Snyder and Duane Yeagle. The next council meeting will be December 17th at 7 p.m.



COINCIDENCES? We like to call them, as does Philip Yancey, God-incidents, and we'd love to hear yours, if you'd like to share. I'll start...

From Helen Yoas: I'm a reference librarian at Penn College, and one of my most enjoyable duties is working in the college archives. We recently found there a picture of a drafting student from the late 1920's, with an instructor's name handwritten on the back; the last name looked something like Richard but we couldn't quite read it. The day before, we'd had a plumbing problem arise under the kitchen at church. The day following our archives discovery, I went over to church with my husband, who's on the property committee; he wanted to check blueprints to find out what was underneath the kitchen. As I looked over his shoulder, I saw that the blueprints, dated 1927, had been signed by a local architect, with the name typed underneath—F. Arthur Rianhard. A little research back at the college showed that Mr. Rianhard had indeed been on the faculty at what was then the Williamsport Technical Institute, so we were finally able to label the photograph correctly. Who needs Wikipedia, anyway?

*“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

This culture of gratitude — where spiritual leaders give thanks for the church’s fellowship and God’s followers give thanks for ministers’ and missionaries’ spiritual guidance — is deeply ingrained in the Christian faith.

Since the mid-1930s, American Baptist congregations have received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support needy and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1948, churches began donating to the November Communion Fellowship Offering, providing financial assistance to the denomination’s elderly ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA officially launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this tradition of thankfulness. Since 1980, MMBB has sent “Thank You” checks drawn directly from the MMBB endowment to eligible retired lay church employees.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering commemorates the anonymous gift in 1981 of a Vietnamese refugee woman worshipping with the First Chinese Baptist Church of Fresno, California. Not knowing the full intent of the offering, but understanding the words “thank you” printed on the offering envelope, she slipped off her wristwatch, her only possession of value, and placed it in the envelope.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is a personal offering, one rooted in thanks for the countless ways ministers and missionaries guide each member of the church along their spiritual journey. It provides a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say “Thank you for ...” the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God’s service by providing emergency assistance in their times of need and, for those eligible, a “Thank You” check at the end of each year. In 2012, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 recipients. For 2013, the national RMMO goal is \$1.2 million. This year, RMMO will showcase this gratitude by offering your congregation, along with retired ministers and missionaries, a chance to say... *Thank You!*

Editor’s note: Don’t forget—Calvary’s goal for this year is \$650.00.

AFTER THANKSGIVING ...



Calvary Baptist ABW White Cross December 2013

This year's collection will benefit the Edna Martin Christian Center of Indianapolis, Indiana. Instead of purchasing, collecting, and boxing items, the ABW has asked us to send WalMart or K-Mart gift cards.

Beginning December 1, we will have a Christmas tree in the lounge, decorated with play money as we did last year. This year we have added play WalMart & K-Mart gift cards to the tree.

Whatever you take from the tree, you will return in real money or real WalMart or K-Mart gift cards. With the money given we will purchase more WalMart or K-Mart gift cards to add to the other gift cards donated.

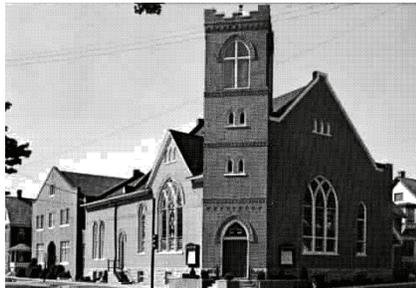
When we send the gift cards, we will include a list of items which we wish them to purchase with the gift cards.

Give all donations to Karen, Sue, or Penny by **December 22.**

Any questions, see Karen, Sue, or Penny.

... **THINK GIVING!**

Calvary Baptist Church
42 Washington Blvd.
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-322-7256



God's house of worship on the hill since 1869

<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 submit this information to Helen Yoas for the January 2014 issue of the *Calvary Baptist Courier*.

PLEASE NOTE: We hand out as many newsletters as possible to those attending the worship service in an effort to cut mailing costs. You may, if you wish, receive the newsletter by email, by emailing CalvaryCourier@gmail.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.

2013 Church Council: Shirley Beyer, Dave Lantz, Jim Lewis (church clerk), Penny Ohnmeiss, Sandy Snyder, Lynn Turney, Robin Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member and interim moderator), Duane Yeagle, Dan Yoas, Helen Yoas (treasurer)

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
DECEMBER**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<u>EACH SUNDAY:</u> 9:30 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service 7 pm – International Bible Study	<u>EACH MONDAY:</u> Pastor's Day Off 7:15-8:15 pm - Middle School Spanish Class 7:30-9 pm – International Program	<u>EACH TUESDAY:</u> 7-8 pm - Adult Spanish Class	<u>EACH WEDNESDAY:</u> 5-7 pm – AWANA Youth Clubs (K-12 grade) 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer 7:30-9 pm – International Program	<u>EACH THURSDAY:</u> 7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal		<u>EACH SATURDAY:</u> 9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting
1 1st Sun. of Advent 9:30 a.m. – Decorate the church for Christmas during Sun. School hour	2 NO Middle School Spanish Classes this month No International Program	3 No Adult Spanish Class	4	5	6 7 pm - Family Games Night B – Stanley Bower	7 2-4 p.m. – ABW Christmas Tea B – Susan Paulhamus Betts A – Ron & Sally Cramm (12-7-68)
8 2nd Sun. of Advent Special International Worship Service Fellowship Luncheon (international pot luck) following worship service	9 7:30-9 p.m. – International Prog.	10 7-9 p.m. – Adult Spanish Class	11	12	13 B – Marianne Hopkins	14
15 3rd Sun. of Advent 3 p.m. – Caroling to homebound – Snack time following in Fellow. Hall	16 7:30-9 p.m. – International Prog.	17 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting 7-8 p.m. – Adult Spanish Class	18 7:00 p.m. – Congreg. Business Meeting	19 B – Susan Mahserjian-Smith	20	21
22 4th Sun. of Advent	23 No International Program B – Melia Lantz	24 7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service No Adult Spanish Class	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! No evening programs	26	27 B – Dottie Blanchard	28
29	30 No International Program	31 New Year's Eve No Adult Spanish Class				

2013

Note: B – Birthday
A - Anniversary