

Calvary Baptist Courier

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

December 2014

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

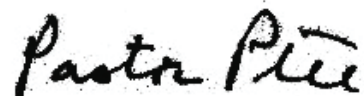
Advent

The early Christians, coming out of a pagan background, began to reorganize their calendars to leave out pagan holidays and references (such as the month of “March,” named for Mars, the Roman god of war, or “August,” a month to honor Caesar Augustus, the deified emperor). Following Jewish practice, they set up a series of holy days and seasons reflecting events in salvation history.

The month before Christmas was set apart as preparation for that holy day, as well as to focus on personal preparedness for Jesus’ yet-to-come second advent (second “coming”). It also was the first month of the “Christian” calendar; in the same way that Sunday was used to look back at the previous week and thank God for His blessings, and look ahead to the coming week and ask His guidance, Advent was a month to look back over the previous year and ahead to the opening year. Christmas wasn’t seen as closing the old year but opening the new. It is a beginning, not an end.

Our Advent guide booklets are one means to turn us from our pagan culture and to practice a Christian perspective in these busy weeks. You might also try to think of the Advent season as the beginning of the year ahead, not just a lead-up to Christmas. Let me know if you try this and find it making a difference in your outlook.

Shalom ,



COUNCIL NOTES

By Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on November 18, 2014. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of October 31, 2014, our expenditures were \$5152.10 less than we took in. The recent benefit dinner for the THRIVE program was a big success. Everything that was provided for the Election Day bake sale was sold. Our dear friend Harvey Snyder went to be with the Lord on October 28, 2014. He was loved and respected by all. He was a good friend, and will be missed. The collection of filled shoeboxes for the Christmas Child program went well with over 30 boxes filled. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is currently being collected; please give generously. This is a worthwhile cause. Helen Yoas and Duane Yeagle are scheduled to go off the Church Council this year. Lynn Turney has agreed to come on next year. The nominating committee is still looking for another representative to add to the council. If you are asked, please consider it prayerfully. The proposed budget for 2015 was presented to council. With some increases related to the purchase of the new parsonage property, the budget is still being revised. We are still waiting for East End Lumber to replace the gutters on the church. The international college students and the ESL group held Thanksgiving meals at the church. A good time was had by all participants. The Baptist Women's group reports that the annual Love Offering is about \$50 to date. They are hoping to collect more for this effort. A group will go out caroling on December 14th. Contact Pastor Pete if you are interested in participating. The Christmas offering this year will be dedicated to replacing the stage curtains in the Fellowship Hall. Please give generously. The greeter for December will be Doris Paulhamus. The counters for December will be Jim and Dottie Lewis. The fellowship meal coordinator for December is Robin Turney. The next council meeting will be December 9th. The congregational business meeting will be on January 21, 2015. Note to council members: inputs for the annual report are due by early January.

THE BENEDICTION

by Rev. John R. MacGorman

We praise you, Heavenly Father, that Jesus Christ sets us free ... Free to receive:

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

To guide our way to a closer walk with God.

THE LOVE OF GOD

To give more warmth to our love for others within His house and beyond ...
to people in need around the world.

THE WORD

To get us "unstuck" that we may grow and develop in our spiritual lives;

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The energy that enables "these greater things" to be accomplished.

THE HEALING

Of body, mind and spirit that we may know the peace of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN

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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 2015 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.

2014 Church Council: Larry Green, Sue Green, Dave Lantz, Jim Lewis (ex officio member and church clerk), Doris Paulhamus, David Snyder Jr., Sandy Snyder, Robin Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member and interim moderator), 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>
<p>EACH SUNDAY: 9:30 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service 7 pm – Multi-language Bible Study</p>	<p>EACH MONDAY: PASTOR'S DAY OFF 8:45-10:15 am – ESL Class* 6:30-8 pm – Chinese 1 Elementary School and Middle/High School Classes 6:30-8 pm – Spanish 2 Middle/High School Class* 7:30-9 pm – ESL Class*</p>	<p>EACH TUESDAY: 7-8 pm – Spanish 2 High School/Adult Class</p>	<p>EACH WEDNESDAY: 8:45-10:15 am – ESL Class 4:45-7 pm – AWANA Youth Clubs (K-12 grade) 7:00 pm – Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:30-9 pm – ESL Class* 8:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal</p>			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7 2nd Sun. of Advent Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service</p> <p>B – Susan (Paulhamus) Betts A – Ron & Sally Cramm (12-7-68)</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
		7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting			7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	B – Stanley Bower
<p>14 3rd Sun. of Advent 3:00 p.m. – Caroling to the Homebound</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
			AWANA kids will be going caroling		B – Susan Mahserjian-Smith	
<p>21 4th Sun. of Advent</p>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27
		B – Melia Lantz				B – Dottie Lewis
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			
						Note: B – Birthday A – Anniversary *English-as-a-Second-Language Class

2014