

Calvary Baptist Courier

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

December 2015

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

JOY TO THE WORLD

The word “joy” appears repeatedly in the Christmas season. In songs, on cards, on banners in stores and in lights on your neighbors’ houses, we hear and see and write and sing the word “joy” in these weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas more frequently than in the rest of the whole year put together. The rest of the year, the words “happy” or “happiness” predominate. At Christmas the words are “joy” and “joyful”. Why is this? What is the difference?

For one thing, in connection with Jesus, scripture (and Jesus himself) use the word “joy”, not “happiness”, repeatedly. NOTE: In connection with Jesus! The Bethlehem angels announce, “Good tidings of great joy!” Jesus says his followers “enter my joy” (Luke 2:10) and it is “for the joy set before him, Jesus endured the cross.” (Hebrews 12:12)

Joy is happiness plus. Happiness plus security. Happiness plus an eternal dimension. Happiness plus the eternal dimension in God. Without that eternal component, all happiness is tinged with temporariness, fear, melancholy—an awareness that what brings us happiness is mortal—will not last—will leave us—leave us unhappy, even devastated. Happiness becomes joy when that dark cloud, that elephant in the room, is removed.

From the beginning to the end of his ministry, Jesus portrayed the gospel as wooing and betrothal that lead to marriage. A one-night-stand can make a person happy. There is a whole different quality of happiness (joy!) for someone on their wedding night: a security, an assurance. And our joy is even greater than that because the unhappy circumstances we all live with, even death, will not do us part from Jesus. In fact, quite the opposite!

With Jesus’ advent into the world, people can finally know true joy. Even as the Christmas decorations go back into the attic and winter’s bleakness sets in and the bad tidings of the world’s miseries fill the airwaves, may the joy of Jesus be yours year-round in 2016!

Shalom ,



COUNCIL NOTES

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on November 18, 2015. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of October 31, 2015, our expenditures were \$11,800.45 less than we took in. During the holiday season, the Tuesday night Bible study is on the advent season. Pastor Pete noted that the pastor at Hepburn Baptist Church has resigned and asked for prayer for that congregation. He also mentioned that we have had quite a few visitors on recent Sundays, several of whom expressed an interest in possibly joining with our church. The choir is working on a cantata for the Sunday before Christmas; the congregation is reminded that it is not too late to join the choir for Christmas. The Christmas Eve service this year will be at 6:00 P.M. We exceeded our goal for the World Mission Offering this year. Thanks to everyone for their generosity. The Christmas Child collection was 32 boxes on the 16th, with several more coming. The collection for retired ministers and missionaries is coming up soon. On recent Sundays, the Christmas boxes and the pillowcase dresses for the Dominican Republic were blessed. The funds collected for the recent Election Day bake sale (\$136) were dedicated to help defray expenses for the new parsonage (which is an expense when it is not rented.) Lynn Turney is looking for individuals to join the church council for the 2016 term. If you are approached about joining, please consider it prayerfully. The 2016 budget for the church and the slate of new members for the church council will be discussed at the fellowship meal in January. Those members of the congregation who wish to participate in caroling this year will do so on December 20th. Check with Pastor Pete about where we will meet if you are interested in participating. Thanks to all who helped with the hanging of the greens on November 29th. The greeter for December is Karen Mazzullo. The counters for December will be Robin and Lynn Turney. The fellowship meal coordinators will be Sue Green and Penny Ohnmeiss. The next council meeting will be December 16th at 7:00 P.M.

NEWS

WHITE CROSS - The ABW (American Baptist Women) of Calvary has collected \$357 for the Philadelphia Race Track Ministry as of November 30. Thanks to all who donated. For more information about the ministry, visit <http://www.rtca-pa.org/>.

PLEASE NOTE: We are looking to replace the **game tables** in the basement. Our AWANA kids (and some adults) enjoy using them and the current ones are worn out and falling apart. If you or someone you know has a Ping Pong, Foosball, Air Hockey, or Pool table that is in good condition and would like to donate or sell it (cheaply), please speak with Dave Snyder, Jr.

RMMO : We will be accepting donations for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering throughout the month of December. Our goal is \$500.00. This year's theme is *The Grace of Giving*. As is stated at <http://www.abc-usa.org/rmmo>, "Through the simple yet profound act of giving, American Baptist churches can share in an act of *Grace* that reminds the ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses who served so faithfully that they are remembered with love and gratitude."

WMO: A total of \$850.00 was collected for the World Mission Offering in September, October, and November. Thank you!

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God's house of worship on the hill since 1869

Website: <http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com>

Email: calvarybaptistwmspt@verizon.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Calvary-Baptist-Church-Williamsport-PA/1554566468089710>

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 2016 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.

2015 Church Council: Larry Green, Sue Green, Jim Lewis (ex officio member and church clerk), Doris Paulhamus, David Snyder Jr., Sandy Snyder, Lynn Turney, Robin Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member and interim moderator), Helen Yoas (ex officio member and 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> |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| EACH SUNDAY: 9:30 am – Kids Club, College & Adult Classes 10:40 am – Worship Service | EACH MONDAY: PASTOR'S DAY OFF | EACH TUESDAY: 5-7 pm – AWANA Youth Clubs (K-12 grade) 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer Meeting | | EACH THURSDAY: 6 pm – Choir Rehearsal | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 7 p.m. – Family Games Night | 5 |
| 6 2nd Sun. of Advent Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service B – Stanley Bower | 7 B- Susan Betts A – Ron & Sally Cramm (12-7-68) | 8 B – Peter Heintzelman | 9 | 10 | 11 Kathy Foust will be setting up for Preschool Grad. | 12 Kathy's Kittens Preschool Graduation |
| 13 3rd Sun. of Advent B – Marianne Hopkins | 14 | 15 | 16 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting B – Viola Yeagle | 17 | 18 | 19 B – Susan Mahserjian-Smith |
| 20 4th Sun. of Advent 10:40 a.m. – Cantata 3-5 p.m. - Caroling | 21 | 22 | 23 B – Melia Lantz | 24 6:00 P.M. – CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! | 26 |
| 27 B – Dottie Lewis | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | Note: B – Birthday A - Anniversary |

2015