

Calvary Baptist Courier

February 2009

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

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

COME LEARN WITH US

Here's a good conversation starter that I like to use with fellow clergy, and that you can use with acquaintances who attend other churches: "What is one thing special about your church?"

Normally after someone has given you their answer, they'll ask you the same question. One answer I give is this, "Calvary is the site of the Church Leadership Institute (CLI) of Northeast Pennsylvania."

CLI does indeed meet in our Fellowship Hall and, as a participant in Calvary's life, you should be aware of just how special an opportunity that is for you and others locally. Although CLI was established as a training school for lay pastors (and some of the most effective Baptist pastors in our Association and across Pennsylvania are CLI alumni who studied here), the classes are open to anyone seeking a good education in different areas of our faith. For example, this fall's two classes are Old Testament Overview and Biblical Interpretation. You can audit a class for half tuition and learn an awful lot about the Bible this fall. (New Testament, taught by yours truly, will be offered in the spring.)

Classes meet on Saturday mornings in 2-hour sessions for 12 weeks starting in September. For details, pick up a brochure in the hall in front of the church office.

I hope several of you reading this article will register for class. You'll find it to be a great experience of learning, of fellowship with folks from other churches across northeast Pennsylvania, and possibly with that church-going friend you told about this special aspect of Calvary. CLI is a way Calvary can be something special for folks involved in other churches who may never come here on a Sunday but who, on Saturday mornings, we can serve and help to become better equipped Christian disciples.

Shalom,

Peter Wilson

Council Notes
by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on January 20, 2009. These are the highlights of that meeting. As of the end of December, the church was \$8,233.14 in the red. CLI classes will reconvene here in the spring. Pastor Pete will be teaching a course on the New Testament in the spring of 2010. He suggested that anyone interested in expanding their knowledge attend one of these courses. Courses can be audited for half price. Karen Nelson has moved her membership from Calvary Baptist effective this month. Pastor Pete has several people preparing for baptism and/or membership in the church. Anyone interested in joining in these endeavors should contact Pastor Pete. Council members have received numerous comments regarding the holding of services in the Fellowship Hall. Most of these have been positive. Pastor Pete is still holding prayer services on Saturday morning. If you would like prayer for someone, contact Pastor Pete. There will be a White Cross work day for our Baptist women's group on February 14th at 10 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. "Souper Bowl Sunday" is coming up soon. January 25th is World Leprosy Awareness Sunday. There will be a short film on the subject during the services on that day. Dan Yoas recently replaced Sandy's computer in the office with a more updated version. Sandy's old computer will soon be available to any member who can use it; contact Sandy or Pastor Pete if you are interested. Helen Yoas will be the counter for February; Vicki Lewis will be the greeter; Marianne Hopkins will manage the fellowship meal. The council will meet next on February 17th.

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A POEM

BY

Rev. John R. MacGorman

WE WALK BY FAITH

God does not always let us see the road ahead,
But He would have us know that by Him we are being led.
We need faith to believe that though the road we do not see,
That God plans through all of our life that which is best for
you and me.

The past makes that clear as into it we look,
God has not failed us in what He gave or took.
His faithfulness back there should strengthen us now,
And to His will which has always proved best for us we should
gladly bow.

So if you cannot see the road ahead,
Do not face that unknown future with fear and dread.
Believe that God is out there in every tomorrow,
And that His power will sustain you through every hour.

This poem is from a collection called "Christian Rhymes that Comfort and Challenge", written by Rev. John R. MacGorman, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church from 1948 until 1955. A copy of the privately-printed work was given by Rev. MacGorman to his "prayer partners" Ken and Olive Waltz, parents of Sue Green. Thanks to Sue for sharing; look for further selections to be published in the *Courier* in the future.

Looking Forward to 2009

by Vicki Lewis

The planning group met with 2009 calendars in hand to review our traditional church programming and talk about what we wanted to accomplish in the New Year. Everyone came with great ideas and we found we needed more days in the year! Following is a sample of the things we discussed:

Rummage Sale- It was generally agreed that we will do a rummage sale every two years. Since we did one in 2008, this means we would plan to do this in **2010**. And, because we have room in the basement to store items, we'd like to engage the congregation in the process of assembling sale items so the 2010 sale will be a good one. We agree to take and store **clean, usable** things. Please, no broken appliances or television sets. If possible, bring clothes on hangers. **We are also asking the membership to see if anyone wants to volunteer to head up this effort.** Let Pastor Pete or Sandy know if you are interested.

“Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century.” After lots of talking about this issue since we heard about it at the Biennial, we did set dates for this series. They are: February 28, April 25, June 20, August 29, October 24, and the final session will be on November 21. You will hear more details in the run up to the first date. Slavery exists today in every part of the world and sometimes much closer than we could even imagine. The facts about human trafficking are startling, sobering, and painful. God is calling us to become aware and to do something.

“Spring Fling”-Adult Sunday School classes are co-sponsoring this fund-raiser. It will be a fun evening and the menu is ham loaf, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and pie. All this for \$5.00! Gather up your friends and your money and come for the festivity.

Easter activities: Of course, Holy Week is always busy and this year, we will have the Seder Meal on Thursday. We've been alternating between the meal and foot-washing, and the planning committee seemed to like to do it this way. Good Friday will include the Ministerium service at the Lutheran Church from 1-3, and the Easter Cantata will be somewhere in this time period. We encourage everyone to attend one of the many Easter sunrise services, but we will not be doing one ourselves at Calvary.

In **May**, look forward to a **Mother's Day Breakfast** (prepared and served by the men of the church), and an **ABW Plant Exchange** on the 16th as well as a very special Sunday night (the 31st) of **music and ice cream**.

To round out the first half of the year, in June, we will honor the **Fathers** in the congregation with a breakfast (prepared and served by the women of the church) as well as the **Northumberland Spring Fair** at Milton Church on the 28th.

That's enough to get your calendar going! We have many other events to share. If any of these look like something you'd like to work on, let us know and we'll be sure you get a job!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CALVARY KIDS PAGES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 5:59 p.m.

Thank you

From: Michelle Miller

To: admin@calvarywilliamsport.com

I echo all of the other positive comments I just read regarding your site. God definitely led me to your website (I just stumbled upon it) and I cannot believe all of the wonderful resources you have made available. I am new to teaching Bible class but feel it is an awesome responsibility ... many of the young people I am teaching have never spent much time in church and are starting from virtually no understanding of God's word. Your activities and ideas are so inviting and fun ... just what is needed to engage the kinds of kids I am trying to work with ... I have searched other sites and visited bookstores for activities (and have found things here and there). Your site, however, has absolutely everything I am looking for. You are a true blessing to share with those of us committed to sharing Jesus with our children. Thank you!

* * *

Sunday, January 25, 2009 10:39 a.m.

Thank you!

From: Scott Overhoff

To: admin@calvarywilliamsport.com

Hi, We are just recently starting to use the Calvary Kids Pages. Thank you so much for the labor in preparing such a site ... I know it must have taken ... and still does take ... countless hours. I will pray for you all to be strengthened by His Spirit in the inner person. Please continue to pray for those who use the pages that His Spirit will bring forth fruit. Thank you again, The Overhoff Family

* * *

Monday, January 26, 2009 4:40 p.m.

Wonderful!

From: Dan House

To: admin@calvarywilliamsport.com

This is an awesome website! We just began homeschooling our three children and want to add as much Christian influence to their curriculum as we can. The printables are a fantastic way for us to do that! Thank you for all the work you put into this site. We parents who are trying to make our way in this crazy world need all the help we can get! Yours truly, Homeschool Mom, Ohio

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Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:57 p.m.

Permission to use flash cards from your web site

From: catfunx2

To: djy021315

Duane, My name is Linda Seifert. I am planning a missions trip to India next week. One of the items we will be doing is having a mini VBS with the orphanage children. I am in charge of the story time and I found some colored flashcards on your site; I would like to print them off and take them with me. I'm not sure if I will cut them and use them on a flannel graph or use as flashcards. If the children like them, I may leave them there, if that is ok. I'm not going to mass produce them or sell them. They would be used for the lesson only. The ones I've found that I would like to use are for the stories of Zaccheus and the Prodigal Son. Thank you for considering, Linda

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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 get this information to Helen Yoas by Friday, February 27, 2009 for the March issue of the *Calvary Baptist Courier* (to be distributed March 1.)

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.

2009 Church Council: Shirley Beyer, Sue Green, Jack Hopkins, Jim Lewis, Vicki Lewis (Chair), Sarah Reid, Wanda Reid, Sandy Snyder, Kathy Temple, Deb Titus, Emily Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member), Duane Yeagle, Helen Yoas

February

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

B – Birthday

A – Anniversary

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
EACH SUNDAY: 9:10 am – Sun. School Open 9:30 am – S.S. Classes 10:40 am – Worship Service	EACH MONDAY: Pastor's Day Off		EACH WEDNESDAY: 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer	EACH THURSDAY: 10 am-noon – Open Sanctuary & Library 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal		EACH SATURDAY: 9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting
1 10:40 a.m. – Worship in Sanctuary Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following worship service	2	3 B – Rev. Thomas Wilcox	4 9-11:30 a.m. – Mother's Morning Out	5	6 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	7
8 10:40 a.m. – Worship in Fellowship Hall	9	10 B – Steffanie Wilson	11	12 B – Jean Snyder	13	14 10 a.m. – ABW Work Day – Roller bandages for White Cross – Bring bag lunch
15 10:40 a.m. – Worship in Fellowship Hall	16 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	17 6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting B – Candy Clark B – Sue Green	18 9-11:30 a.m. – Mother's Morning Out	19	20 B – Benjamin Green	21 B – Wanda Reid
22 10:40 a.m. – Worship in Fellowship Hall “catch up” Offering	23 B – Tiffanie Wilson	24	25 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	26 B – Wendi Sterner	27 B – Jennifer Hoover	28 10 a.m. – ABW Human Trafficking Series – EVERYONE INVITED TO ATTEND

2009