

Calvary Baptist Courier

February 2016

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

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

“... I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH ...”
—JESUS, MATTHEW 16:18

Which was the better family: the Cleavers or the Waltons?

Whose body is more important for the job: a linebacker's or a ballerina's?

These are the questions I always ask someone—or myself—when thinking about our church family's small size. Here are a few thoughts:

Both TV families were great—one big, one small. It is important for a linebacker to have a big body; for a ballerina to be petite.

Why do I feel unsatisfied with a small size church? Is it because I think in a natural way: that bigger is better? One core truth from the Beatitudes is that our natural way of thinking can be the direct opposite of God's way. As Paul planted the early churches, he gave them a similar list of such reversals in I Corinthians 1 and wrote, “God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong” (v. 27) ... so that, he goes on to say, the good results can only be explained by God's presence and power. As I've reviewed last year for my annual report, it is remarkable how a church of this size did and gave so much. That is a great sign of spiritual health and commitment. As with Gideon's band, small numbers can discourage. Until you see the out-of-proportion good results. $2 + 2 = 10$? There's clearly an invisible component at work. That ENCOURAGES me!

As for the body-types. That all depends on the activity, doesn't it? A ballerina on a football (and vice versa) would be a disaster. God has a purpose for the large and a purpose for the small, in the vast spiritual war. He is fighting different battles different ways and in different places. Both large and small churches have strengths and weaknesses based on size. Some people God is reaching prefer one; some prefer the other. Someone was just telling me the other day how happy they are to be in a smaller church now.

I pray each week for more people here. But then I give the Lord my reasons why. 1) For Him to bring here neighbors, students, etc., who need to meet Jesus and 2) for Him to bring us new folks who will help us be a better church in our body-life and in carrying out our mission. But I also stop to thank God for each of you, the people we already have here and the spirit of our Gideon's band here at Calvary: all hands on deck and out-sized results that show God's place in you, in us.

(continued on p. 3)

COUNCIL NOTES

by Jim Lewis

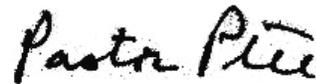
The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on January 20, 2016. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of December 31, 2015, our expenditures were \$12,208.86 less than we took in. The collection for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering was \$962.00. The White Cross offering was \$375.00. Thanks to everyone for their generosity. Tuesday night Bible Study is back in "The Fruit of the Spirit." This is a great venue for learning new things about the Bible (I learn new things every week). All are welcome to attend. We have a new renter in the new (future) parsonage. This is good news, since it is a drag on our monthly financial balance when it is not rented (we still have to pay the mortgage). The church council is considering signing the church up for a new computer program that provides religious training and many other benefits. If you are interested in knowing more, contact Pastor Pete. We are looking for individuals interested in signing up to take a turn (in rotation with others) in the church nursery since we have had some business there lately. If you would like to sign up let Pastor Pete know. (Anyone who works in the nursery will need the Child Abuse Clearances required for this. If you are interested, see Sandy for details.) The greeter for February will be Helen Yoas. The counters will be Jim and Dottie Lewis. The fellowship meal coordinator will be Doris Paulhamus. The next council meeting will be February 17, 2016.

I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH ...

(continued from page 1)

Whenever you start thinking, "Gee, this is a small church"—let that prompt you to ask yourself if that is discouraging to you—or ENCouraging. Hmmm. And then pray the three things I focus on each week. All of those are Biblical and God loves prayers that come out of Biblical thinking.

Shalom,

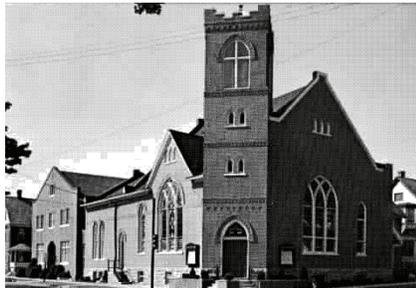


NEWS

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 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.

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL - The time has come to begin the second phase of our new parsonage/parking lot expansion project. The purpose for purchasing the property at 30 Washington Blvd. was to replace the inadequate existing parsonage and enlarge the parking lot to be more useful and to have visibility and accessibility from Washington Blvd. We are in the process of getting estimates for the work. We also need to begin a special fund to make this a reality. We are asking for your help in acquiring the funds to move forward with this project. If you would be interested in contributing, please designate on your envelope "The Parsonage Project." Having begun getting estimates, we think the project could cost \$22,000 or more to tear down the old parsonage, get the ground ready, and install an asphalt parking lot. If you have any questions regarding this project, speak with Dan Yoas or Duane Yeagle.

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



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 March 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.

2016 Church Council: Janice Brown, Larry Green, Sue Green, Jim Lewis (ex officio member and church clerk), Doris Paulhamus, David Snyder Jr., Lynn Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member and interim moderator), Duane Yeagle, Dan Yoas, and Helen Yoas (ex officio member and treasurer)

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY**

<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	5 7 p.m. – Family Games Night	6
7 Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service	8	9 B – Dean Paulhamus	10 Ash Wednesday	11	12	13 B – Gladys Herrick
14 1st Sun. of Lent A – Dean and Doris Paulhamus (2-14-88)	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting B – Candy Clark B – Sue Green	18	19	20 B – Ben Green B – Debbie Grimes
21 2nd Sun. of Lent	22	23	24	25 B – Zaillet Hpauda	26 B – Wendi Sterner	27
28 3rd Sun. of Lent	29					B – Birthday A – Anniversaries

2016