

Calvary Baptist Courier

January 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

Newtown, 1 A.D.: Matthew 2:13-18

Columbine, Virginia Tech, Newtown.

What painful, appalled, sickening feelings those names have come to conjure up. We wonder what the next one will be. I've got one more to add to the list: Bethlehem.

Bethlehem? Yes, Bethlehem.

We have just taken our annual Advent journey to Bethlehem and associated words with it like: quiet, still, dreamless. Those words, based on Luke 2 and Matthew 2, are certainly valid, but other very different words and emotions surface about Bethlehem in the paragraphs that follow Matthew 2:12, the place where we normally stop our Christmas readings.

One of the big questions that swirled around in the days after Newtown was, "Where was God?" Quite a question in the midst of Advent 2012, wasn't it? As with Columbine and other tragedies, stories did begin to surface as days went by that give some answers to that question to anyone willing to hear.

In the wake of the Bethlehem massacre tragedy, the same question would have been raised. In Judea, and undoubtedly even further because Herod was a very prominent international figure, Bethlehem, like Columbine, Virginia Tech, or Newtown, suddenly was catapulted from an obscure, typical crossroads town to a synonym for violence and senseless killing as Herod's hit squads appeared there out of nowhere and began taking everyone's baby boys and killing them.

Traumatized ("refusing to be comforted" is the Bible's wording; do you recognize that?): Bethlehem and all who heard. I wonder if that explains why we have no record of Jesus ever revisiting the town of His birth. He certainly spent enough time in Jerusalem, only 3 miles away. Most of us would take a side-trip to see our birth town if we were so close by—I've done so for mine. But not Jesus.

Beneath all the nostalgia and warm cozies that we treat ourselves to at Christmas, the word of God comes to us and says, "Folks, this is serious. It is real. Evil is real and this baby has been born to grow up to brutally die on a cross, killed by that Evil, to protect you from it. Without Him, you are defenseless and it will massacre you and yours."

The reason the Son of God appeared
was to destroy the Devil's work - I John 3:8

Shalom,

Peter P. Wilson

COUNCIL NOTES

By Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on December 18, 2012. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of the end of November, we have a positive balance in our accounts of \$2,498.20. In December, Pastor Pete held funeral services for Vicki in Bossier City, Louisiana. Vicki was a loving person and will be missed by all (and I am not speaking just as her spouse). We had a joint baptismal service/Christmas chorale here at Calvary with the Agape Fellowship. A fun time was had by all. Some of our members went Christmas carolling recently to one of the senior care facilities and some of our senior member's homes, followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Larry and Sue Green will be striking out for warmer climes soon, returning after the snow melts. This leaves the choir short-handed—if you ever considered joining the choir, you are sorely needed now. Kathy Temple moved to be near her family in Canton and has joined with a church there. Shirley Beyer and Harvey Snyder will be performing a duet during services in the near future. We've had a lot of positive comments about our new choir director recently: he is a fine addition to our church. Thanks to Ben Mazzullo for taking over the reins of the adult Sunday School class. We are currently collecting for the retired missionary's fund, a worthy cause. The American Baptist Women (ABW) group has collected over \$400 for the White Cross fundraiser this year. Kudos to them for their outstanding efforts. Jody Lantz's ESL group has recently started a Bible study class. Sandy Snyder, Robin Turney, and Dave Lantz have accepted nominations for the church council and will appear at the Dec. 19th business meeting for congregational approval. Shirley Beyer, Helen Yoas, Jim Lewis, and Robin Turney have also agreed to continue their duties as (respectively) assistant treasurer, treasurer, church clerk, and financial secretary, pending the yearly required congregational approval. The 2013 budget will also be presented at the business meeting, totalling slightly more than \$3000 below the 2012 budget. Duane is looking into the possibility of streaming our Sunday services live on the church website; more details will follow. The council approved small Christmas bonuses for the church staff members. January designees: greeter—Penny Ohnmeiss; fellowship meal—Shirley Beyer and Penny Ohnmeiss; counters—Jim Lewis and Shirley Beyer; communion servers—Lynn Turney, Duane Yeagle, Jim Lewis, and Dan Yoas; prayer for the cup—Lynn Turney; prayer for the bread—Jim Lewis. The next council meeting will be January 15, 2013. (*Ed. note: if you'd like to serve as a future greeter or fellowship meal coordinator, please see Jim—the 2013 calendar is not yet full.*)

American Baptist Women White Cross Programs Calvary Baptist Church

Thanks and blessings to all the men, women and children who participated in our Christmas “Kit Giving Program for the Philippines”.

The funds collected and sent were:

Sewing Material	@	\$2.00	x 3	= \$ 6.00
Sewing Kits	@	4.00	x 19	= 76.00
School Kits	@	3.00	x 36	= 108.00
Health Kits	@	4.00	x 21	= 84.00
Baby Layettes	@	8.00	x 17	= <u>136.00</u>

for a total of \$ 410.00.

In February we will collect items for our White Cross Overland Project, which will benefit the Baptist Children's Services of Philadelphia. Look for notices in the February newsletter and bulletins.

*Karen Mazzullo
ABW White Cross Coordinator*

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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 submit this information to Helen Yoas for the February 2013 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), Duane Yeagle, Dan Yoas, Helen Yoas (treasurer)

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
JANUARY**

EACH WEDNESDAY:

EACH THURSDAY:

EACH SATURDAY:

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer 7-8:30 pm – Internat'l. Prog.	4-6 pm – International Women's Program 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal		9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting
EACH SUNDAY: 9:30 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service	EACH MONDAY: Pastor's Day Off 4-6 pm – International Women's Program	1 New Year's Day B – Arianna Lantz	2 NO ESL Classes	3 NO ESL Classes	4 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	5
6 Epiphany Communion Service Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service	7	8 B – Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith	9	10	11 B – MarTue Hpauda	12
13 B – M. Arthur Erickson	14	15 7:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting B – Sandy Snyder	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22 B – Melissa Cumberland	23	24	25	26 B – Donna Camp
27	28	29	30 B – Makaylee Hallabuk B – Darlene (Koons) Wagner	31		
						Note: B – Birthday

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