

Calvary Baptist Courier

March 2010

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
42 Washington Blvd.
Williamsport, PA 17701
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www.calvarywilliamsport.com

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

As we are preparing to commemorate the occasion on which Jesus said, "This cup is the *new* covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:20), it seems to me timely that we here at Calvary are being introduced to a *revised* covenant of Calvary church membership. After Easter I am hoping to use several sermons to look more deeply at the importance and nature of covenants in the Biblical record and in our lives. I also plan to follow that with a journey through the rich book of Hebrews as it was written at the time of the transition from the Biblical Old Covenant (Old "Testament") into the New.

Take a look at the covenant found elsewhere in this newsletter (and many thanks to Larry Green and Kathy Temple whom the council assigned - along with me - to work on this, and to other Northumberland Association pastors who provided their church covenants for us to study - especially to Bob Berger whose work revising the same covenant in the Hughesville Baptist Church years ago was of special help to us). Among other things, you will note that the covenant gives us the opportunity to publicly state our vows (as in a marriage covenant ceremony - a wedding) of our intentions (and expectations of others) in relating to those in our church. It also facilitates for us the repeated self-examination necessary to not take the Lord's table unworthily (I Corinthians 11:27-28). It also helps to bring new folks up to speed on some Biblical patterns of church membership that might not have been taught or emphasized in their prior church - and it certainly is helpful for unchurched people or non-believers in grasping various dimensions of what church membership will look like if they choose to be baptized and become part of Christ's earthly body and eternal family.

As our upcoming church services on the theme of covenants in general, and this Calvary covenant in particular, will make clearer, this is a much broader and deeper topic than can be surveyed in this short article. I do think that you, as I have, will find this topic to be eye-opening and motivating, and you will see that God has made us to be covenant-making and covenant-living beings - with Him and with one another.

Shalom,

Peter P. Wilson

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

B – Birthday

March

<i>Sun</i>	<u>EACH MONDAY:</u> Pastor's Day Off <i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<u>EACH WEDNESDAY:</u> 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and <i>Wed</i>	<u>EACH THURSDAY:</u> 10 am-noon – Open Sanctuary & Library 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal <i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<u>EACH SATURDAY:</u> 9 AM – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting 8 AM-12:30 PM - CLI <i>Sat</i>
<u>EACH SUNDAY:</u> 9:00 am – Kids & Adults light breakfast 9:25 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service	1	2 7:00 p.m. – Missions Meeting	3 9-11:30 a.m. – Mother's Morning Out B – Janice Alston	4 B – Paul Winner	5 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	6
7 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> Communion Service Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service. B – Louise Snyder	8	9 B – J. Edward Chaapel	10 B – Lois Thomas	11	12	13
14 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> Worship Service in Fellowship Hall (Daylight Savings Begins)	15 B – Stacie Schearer	16 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	17 9-11:30 a.m. – Mother's Morning Out	18 B – Doris Updegrove	19	20 (Spring Equinox)
21 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> Worship Service in Fellowship Hall BROWN BAG SUN. Bring a bag lunch and stay after church. B – Jolee Cumberland	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship Service in Fellowship Hall "Catch up" Offering	29	30 B – Dan Yoas	31 No AWANA			

2010

Council Notes

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on February 16, 2010. These are excerpts of that meeting. Due, primarily, to the quarterly tax payments, we ended January \$4881.01 in the red. Church Leadership Institute (CLI) classes have begun here on Saturday mornings. Sermons will continue on 2nd Corinthians. Joanne Kiehl is looking for new members for the choir. If you have ever considered joining the choir (you don't have to sing like a lark to fit in), please consider doing so now. Your voice is really needed. There will not be an Easter cantata this year. The members present at the congregational business meeting (on February 24th) recertified Vicki Lewis as council moderator, Jim Lewis as church clerk, and Shirley Beyer as financial secretary (I swear the Lewis' are not trying to take over the church....). The updated church covenant was also approved at that meeting. The annual report was also distributed. If you did not get a copy, they will be available in the foyer. The telephone number for the Lundy's is no longer connected. Pastor Pete has written to them to get their new number. The finance committee recommended that a gift of \$2500 be sent to Lee Brown as soon as mission funds become available. Pastor Pete recommended that the excess in missions funds (\$323.10) be sent in to support our area minister (through Partners in Ministry at ABCOPAD). The council approved this motion. Since the \$650 a month savings we have been putting aside to repay the video system fund has repaid that loan, a motion was made and approved that we continue to put aside \$500 each month in a savings program to deal with future emergency needs. The council approved this motion. Since the video system fund is solvent once more, the council plans to ask Larry Green to re-contact the people we got the estimate from previously for the video system (Larry handled this last time). Hopefully, we can get this system installed this summer. We are currently considering installing tankless water heaters in the two restrooms and the baptismal pool. Costs will run around \$240 per unit plus the plumber's installation charges. We haven't decided, as of yet, to implement this plan. We are still looking for a volunteer to keep the outside signs updated. If you would like to take on this job, contact Pastor Pete. Ben Mazzullo recommended we look into alternative electricity providers to see if we can save money by changing providers. The Easter offering this year will go toward deficit relief (current expenses). The update to the church directory will not be done until at least next fall. Pastor Pete suggested we look into other sources for his health insurance. The current provider is not providing payment for enough of the bills from his surgery and is costing both him and the church money. The counter for March will be Duane Yeagle. The greeter for March will be Sandy Snyder. Darlene Nixon will manage the fellowship meal for March. Duane, Ben, Vicki and Jim volunteered to serve communion. Ken Bower will give the prayer for the bread at communion; Ben Mazzullo will give the prayer for the cup. The polls will be open for a primary election on May 18th. We need to work on baked materials for our traditional sale. We will also need workers to man the sale table. If you would like to help either with baked goods or your time to man the table, contact Pastor Pete. The next council meeting will be on March 16th.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

- We agree, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to share life together in Christian love;
- To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and mutual support;
- To promote its purposes and spirituality;
- To support its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
- To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel through all nations.;
- Recognizing the church as Christ's body, to identify our own spiritual gifts and cheerfully give of our time and talents to promote the ministry programs of the church;
- Recognizing the church as Christ's bride, to honor her place of sacred preeminence above all institutions of human origin;
- We also agree to maintain family and private devotions;
- To provide Christian education for our children;
- To seek the salvation of our relatives and acquaintances;
- To be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and Christian examples in our behavior;
- To avoid all abusive conversation and excessive anger;
- Recognizing our body as God's temple, to obey scripture regarding the use of any elements that could endanger its health or self-control;
- We further agree to care for one another in brotherly love;
- To remember each other in prayer;
- To aid each other in sickness and distress;
- To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
- To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the teachings of our Savior, to secure it without delay;
- We moreover agree that, when we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

(respectfully submitted by the Covenant Committee of the Church Council — Larry Green, Kathy Temple, Pastor Wilson — February 2010; approved at the Congregational Business Meeting, February 24, 2010)

A Dominican Adventure *by Jim Lewis*

Our trip down to the Dominican Republic was uneventful. The airline and customs folks just threw up their hands in surrender when they saw 35 of us heading for them, all wearing the same blue T-shirt and with 70-plus bags. They didn't weigh our bags or open any to check contents. Getting to the gate was another story. We had to take off our shoes, empty our pockets and, in my case, shed my belt and suspenders. We arrived at Santo Domingo Airport in the Dominican Republic in the early afternoon in a light rain. We were met by Pastor Tanis who saw to it that we got our luggage loaded on the truck that came to pick us up and got piled into the old school-type bus. We couldn't leave yet though, because the team of six or seven from Florida who were joining us this trip was due in about an hour. Since there were only a few of them, they didn't get through customs quite as easily as we did. Two hours later, we were on our way. We arrived at the compound in Las Colinas in late afternoon, just in time for darkness to set in. For many of us this was like coming home.

Tanis Derolus and his wife Esther, are our hosts. They are a very friendly and gracious couple. We were all happy to see them. Duane and some of the members of the first team had painted the building we were to stay in just the previous week. It was very nice and colorful. We bunk in community rooms with a dozen or so folks in one room. I had forgotten a few pertinent things about this arrangement, though: like bringing earplugs with me. Luckily, one of the ladies on the team had brought a supply with her, so the snoring was bearable. Matt Diffenderfer, the young man who was to lead the construction team, had been down here with Duane and the first team. After the first night, however, he borrowed a tent and slept out under the stars (the snoring that first night was deafening!). Funny as it may seem, after Matt moved out the snoring toned down to bearable levels for the rest of the trip.

We had been told that we would be helping to pour the concrete roof for the second floor of the school. The Haitian concrete crew had everything under control, however, and didn't want any of us up on the roof. I don't think anyone was really disappointed by that. There was plenty of other work that needed to be done. Unlike previous trips, they mixed concrete with a mixer instead of on the ground. They had a derrick-like structure with a large bucket that would be filled at ground level and then hoisted to the roof electrically on a pulley. There, they filled wheelbarrows and wheeled them on boards across the roof dumping and filling in the roof as they went. It was all reinforced with rebar and supported underneath with supports consisting of tree stems three to five inches in diameter placed every two or three feet apart. It's quite an operation.

Our construction crew, instead, concentrated on stripping and painting various buildings, and repairing and upgrading the plumbing and electrical systems throughout the compound. We installed a new pump compression system for water delivery from the two wells on the compound, repaired and resealed the roof on the pastor's residence building, repaired every leaky pipe, every toilet and sink and shower there. Thanks to those versed in plumbing, the bathrooms in the school are now fully functional for the first time.

In a nod to modesty, we made and installed doors on showers and toilets and bathrooms, put in shelves over sinks, and installed mirrors in the bathrooms. We removed the concrete cisterns on the roof of the pastor's home and installed a large plastic bladder. As a result of this effort, the shower water (on a sunny day) is quite warm – a great improvement over the cold showers we had been taking!

Before we left the states, Peg Thomas, fondly known as Mother Hen, had asked me to act as the purchasing agent for the second team. It wasn't what I really wanted to do and so I didn't give her an immediate answer. Spending my time in town trying to communicate with people who couldn't speak English (especially since my Spanish is so poor) wasn't what I had signed on for. I really would have preferred being a part of the construction crew and spending my days getting hot, dirty and tired. The next day (Sunday) at home, our Sunday school lesson was on Moses when God gave him the job of leading the Israelites out of Egypt. As you may recall, Moses tried everything he could think of to get God to assign someone else with this responsibility. In the end, God won out over Moses' reluctance. This convicted me that I needed to go ahead and do the job that was asked of me. The Lord's message got through to me, you might say.... So I agreed to act as purchasing agent. This job turned out to be a blessing as it gave me the opportunity to spend a lot of time with Tanis, the pastor, who acted as my driver and interpreter. It is fair to say that I know him a lot better than I did before we arrived and

I think he knows me better too (although I didn't tell him about all my faults). Although I had been there on two previous trips, this job gave me much more opportunity to talk to him and exchange views, etc. I believe we parted better friends.

The congregation of Tanis' church, the construction workers, the cooks, laundry workers, teachers and students were all as friendly and outgoing as ever. They always had a ready smile and a handshake or a hug. The religious services were very animated with extended prayer and lively singing.

We had a puppet team from Florida there with us. They gave puppet shows at the sugar cane bateys and here in the church at Los Colinas. Their repertoire included Jonah and the big fish, the Good Samaritan, and the prodigal son. They presented these programs in Spanish. Their programs went over quite well once they made it clear to the children that their puppets had nothing to do with voodoo.... Several of their team members have a good command of Spanish and Creole. David, one of their older members, rarely had anything to say. But in church, he preached two sermons, presenting each in Spanish and then interpreting it into English for our benefit. He is a pretty animated preacher too. I was impressed. It was remarked that the only time Dave ever said much of anything was when he was preaching or sleeping (as he tended to talk in his sleep). We all have our gifts, and I can tell you, there is no way I could ever do what he can do. Some of our team members taught religious lessons in the school: yet another job that I couldn't do.

Our medical team traveled to different sugar cane bateys every day to provide a medical clinic for the workers. On one occasion Ardell Thomas, the doctor in charge of the medical team, got to deliver a baby. He hadn't delivered a baby in 40 years. He was assisted by a nurse whose only training in child birthing was theoretical. They had a birthing kit with them only because someone had donated it and they were carrying it with them until they could get to the local hospital where they planned to donate it. The birthing was done under pretty primitive conditions, but was successful. The Lord does provide. Ardell told of a little old lady who was having medical problems. He had to have a translator work with him (as they do with most of these customers) to find out what her problem was. He would ask a question, the translator would translate it to the woman; she would think for a while before she answered and would then look intently at Ardell out of the corner of her eye. This went on through several questions/answers. Ardell finally asked the translator to ask her why she was behaving in such a manner. It turned out that her only other experiences with a medical practitioner had been with voodoo doctors. When you dealt with a voodoo doctor, you didn't tell them what was wrong with you – they told you! A doctor asking her questions was a new experience to her and she thought that if she got the answer wrong, she would be struck (as she would have been with a voodoo doctor). It was difficult to get across to her that he (Ardell) didn't operate in that manner, but when it finally sank in, things went more smoothly.

(Back to my job) As it turns out, the Dominicans downtown are a lot like Americans. Given the opportunity, they are just as friendly as anyone. And I learned some interesting things. Whenever we were waiting to be served in the hardware stores, lumber yards, etc., I would greet my fellow customers in Spanish. Having initiated the conversation in Spanish, they inevitably thought I could speak the language – a drastic overestimation on their part! But, surprisingly, a lot of the Dominicans speak pretty good English – much better than my Spanish, anyway. Would you believe, the first thing most of them wanted to know was, “Are you a Christian?” They were always happy to learn that I am. Catholicism is the predominant religion in the Dominican Republic, but there are all other types of Christian congregations there too. I don't know if I had any impact on any of them, but I'd like to think that they think just a little bit better of Americans because of these exchanges. I did help some with the stripping and painting and acted as plumber's helper on one occasion. So, I did manage to get my hands dirty a few times.

My primary duty, though, was to acquire all the material needs for our team. These were, in large part, plumbing and electrical, or lumber materials. As most of the shops (especially the hardware stores) were quite small, there were times we had to go to three or four different shops before we found what we needed. Sometimes, we just had to make do with the best reasonable substitute as some items just were not available. Any day when we could find everything that we needed in just a few stops was a red letter day. They were few and far between. A few things I never did find. I did also purchase personal items for individuals. Because of this last element, I spent quite a bit of time in the “Jumbo” store – the Dominican version of a Super Wal-Mart. One lady had a standing order for a Spanish newspaper each day. I got to be quite popular at the local newsstand. All told, it was an interesting experience.

Most of our team members in the second group were 60+ years old. A dozen or so were under fifty. And only three or four were under 30. I've gotten to know many of them quite well. For example, Dave (the preacher/ puppeteer) and his wife met on a mission trip in Peru about half a century earlier. She was from England, he from Connecticut. She told several interesting stories about their experiences in the mission field in Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The earthquake in Port-au-Prince came as a major blow to Tanis. Most of his family lives there. It was several days before he was able to communicate with them. As it turned out, they managed to survive the earthquake more or less intact, although, like everyone else, all their possessions were lost. He was torn between staying there with us as we worked on his behalf and going to Haiti to help with the relief effort. Four or five days after the earthquake, he managed to get permission to join a convoy with the local hospital which was going to Port-au-Prince to provide medical support. They had a police escort both coming and going (they probably wouldn't have made it there, otherwise, given the problems with looters). He took a truck full of food and water with him. He managed to return the morning of the day we left in time to bid us farewell. Our prayers are with him as he intends to continue to make trips back and forth every few weeks until the situation improves.

The (winter) weather in the Dominican Republic in January is much like our mid-summer weather – 85 degrees, hot and humid, with frequent light rains. It would eventually cool off at night – enough to need a sheet over you.

The streets in town are a real challenge. Their gutter drainage systems aren't underground: they run alongside the streets, making parking difficult in places, and occasionally run across the streets. I'm surprised any of their vehicles have shocks left. Most people there ride motorcycles, however, since gas runs six or seven (U.S.) dollars per gallon! It is not uncommon to see a motorcycle with three people on board or carrying large items going down the street. We can be thankful for our streets and gas prices. It appeared to me that the rules of the road were not the same for motorcyclists since they rarely stop for a red light. I asked Tanis about this and he indicated that they are, indeed, supposed to obey the laws. That is why, he said, so many of them end up in the local hospital....

Everyone has the opportunity to visit one of the sugar cane bateys while there (with the medical team). Because of the unique duties I was performing, however, I did not get to go on one of these trips this year. That is one thing that I regret. Those visits can be a real eye opener.

The school kids wore uniforms and they were always clean and neat and, overall, well-behaved and friendly. The littlest one are precious. Their mothers always have them looking their best and they are quite precocious. Tanis' niece, about two years old and a real little sweetheart, would frequently be outside his door. As we went about our business, she would wait for someone to slow down long enough to catch their eye. If she did, she would roll her ball to them. She was always up for a little game of catch. A lot of our folks enjoyed her company one time or another. One or two of our younger members became real favorites of the children. They would come looking for them to play basketball or whatever other game they were playing.

Because of the money raised by our churches to help finance this trip, we were able to leave in excess of \$15,000 to continue the construction work there. This money provides crucial income for a community that is hard put to find work locally, since Haitian refugees have no rights in the Dominican Republic and they can't even attend the Dominican schools to get an education. That is one of the reasons our efforts are so crucial. We are helping to provide facilities where the children can become educated and have the opportunity to work their way out of the poverty that is so dominant in their community. This was my third trip, and it won't be my last. I get a lot of joy out of these trips and I hope I bring a little joy with me.

Your brother in Christ,

Jim Lewis

FOOF

From: Busie <busie@.....za>
Subject: Wow
To: admin@calvarywilliamsport.com
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2010, 12:53 AM
I'm in South Africa, a leader and teacher of the Children's ministry.
The site is so helpful and a lot of work has been done !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
God Bless the team
Busisiwe MY Tsela



A THANK YOU FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICE...

(for the hygiene kits our donations sent to Haiti)

Dear Friends:

I want to thank you for your generous contribution — especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by war or natural disasters. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

While these are sobering days, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient men and women we assist around the world, and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf in our wounded world. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. John L. McCullough
Executive Director and CEO

Food for thought..

Please enjoy the following: another selection from Rev. John R. MacGorman's poetry collection, entitled "*Christian Rhymes that Comfort and Challenge.*"

WEARY IN WELL DOING Galatians 6:9

We get weary in well doing when results we do not immediately see,
We forget that it takes God less time to grow a weed than to grow
a tree.

We do our work and look for results at once to show,
But we often look in vain for results are sometimes slow.

We grow weary and complain and sometimes want to quit,
We get discouraged like poor old Elijah and under our juniper tree
we sit.

We tell our sad story of failure into the ear of God,
And sometimes like Elijah we think it would be better if we were
under the sod.

But Elijah did not believe what he said to God that day,
And when we are blue and discouraged we don't mean what we say.
Elijah did not really want to die else he would not have run away,
Jezebel would have looked after that for him if he had chosen to
stay.

But Elijah ran to Beersheba to escape Jezebel's threat that day,
This was proof that he did not believe the things God heard him say.
So don't you believe all that you say to yourself when you are
discouraged and blue,
The chances are that half that you say to yourself at that time is
not true.

God came to discouraged Elijah when he was under the juniper tree
that day,
He ministered to his every need and chased his gloom away.
God has had discouraged prophets and for all of them He knew the
best cures,
If you are discouraged put yourself in God's hands and He Who solved
all of Elijah's problems will today solve yours.

Part of the cure that came to Elijah under the tree that day,
Came when he stopped complaining and listened to what God had to say.
God said that there were seven thousand who had not bowed their knee
to Baal of whom Elijah had not heard,
And Elijah's fears were quieted when he accepted from God that word.

Our fears would be quieted too and for our work we would have more
heart,
If we stopped looking for results before growth has a chance to
start.
So prepare your soil, faithfully sow your seed and look to God to
do His part,
And wait with patience as one who trusts in God and do not lose
heart.

J. R. M. 1/10/70

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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, April 2, 2010 for the April 2010 issue of the *Calvary Baptist Courier*.

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.

2010 Church Council: Shirley Beyer, Ken Bower, Donna Camp, Larry Green, Jim Lewis, Vicki Lewis (Chair), Ben Mazzullo, Kathy Temple, Deb Titus, Emily Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member), Duane Yeagle