

Calvary Baptist Courier

March 2012

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

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

FROM THE PASTOR

On behalf of the church council and myself personally, I want to thank Lynn Turney for his presentation at the special business meeting before February's fellowship meal. For those who weren't there, Lynn called everyone's attention to the financial shortfall of 2011 and asked for everyone to make sacrifices for 2012 so that we won't go any deeper, especially in light of the roof repairs and other maintenance that needs to be done in 2012.

As Lynn suggested, if we each could identify \$10 a week in our discretionary spending that we could redirect toward our church giving, we'd be fine. If we all don't cut back a little to give more, then a couple of us (Sandy or myself) will have to be cut back a lot. The finance committee has already cut back on everything but salaries—so that is the only place left to go to cut expenses if income doesn't rise.

All organizations, from your family to the government, are facing such challenges. God (for His own reasons) has made ours a little deeper by the passing on of so many faithful givers in 2011. As the enclosed pledge form shows, you can personalize your increase by designating it to help replace the giving of someone like May McLaughlin or Paul Winner.

However you choose to view it, I do appreciate your serious prayerfulness about this and whatever response God leads you to. I have done it myself and, knowing the good things He is using this church to do, I can tell you that such God-led, sacrificial giving is indeed the cheerful and God-rewarded experience that God said it will be (2 Corinthians 9:7; Malachi 3:10).

Shalom,

Peter C. Wilson

Council Notes

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on February 21, 2012. This is a synopsis of that meeting. As of the end of January, our expenses were \$6,835.29 in excess of the amount collected. The Wednesday night Bible study is now in the book of Colossians. These studies are always very educational. All are invited to attend. For those of you who miss the old (hymn) favorites on Sunday mornings, Jeff has agreed to work some of these into our services along with the music he selects. The adult Sunday school class has begun a study titled, "Commitment – My Heart, Christ's Home". It promises to be an interesting study. The Americans for Christ mission collection will be taken up in March. Please be generous. Easter daffodils have been ordered and will be delivered on March 25th. The Northumberland Baptist Association is working on some joint outreach efforts. Details will be provided when they are forthcoming. The financial planner at Sovereign Bank has reviewed our investment program (currently managed by Joel Reid). He noted that our current investments appear to be very good, and he recommended we keep them as they are. The church rummage/craft sale previously scheduled for June has been postponed until October or November. Details will be provided when the dates are firmed up. With the council's blessing, Pastor Pete is looking into sharing his services with the Clinton Baptist Church in Montgomery until they are able to hire a new pastor there. The pay he receives for this effort will go into our church treasury to help reduce our deficit. Nothing has yet been firmed up and, no, Pastor Pete is not looking to move on.... He noted that, with no CLI this year and no homebound members, he has the time to commit to this effort. Easter is April 8th this year. We will have a foot-washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday. It appears that the traditional joint churches Good Friday services may not occur this year. The greeter for March will be Donna Camp. The counters for March will be Dan Yoas and a second to be named at a later date. The fellowship meal coordinator for March will be Kathy Temple. Anyone who is interested in being a greeter or fellowship meal coordinator in the future should contact Jim Lewis to get their name on the schedule. The next council meeting is scheduled for March 20th. If you have anything you would like to bring before the council, you can bring it to the member of the council who chairs the committee under which it would fall, or if not known, to any member of the council.

Calvary News

Adult Sunday School Begins a New Course

Beginning with March 4th, the Adult Sunday school discussion group will look at a book called *Commitment: My Heart, Christ's Home*.

Our study will be based on Ephesians 3:17 " ...*may Christ through your faith make his home in your hearts.*" As Christians we have asked Christ to enter our hearts. This study asks us to re-examine our hearts as we would examine our homes if we were awaiting a visitor. You know what I mean: does the house show us to be good homemakers? Are the rooms neat, the carpet vacuumed, fresh towels hung in the powder room? Is it, in a word, *presentable*?

The intriguing premise of our study is for us to ask a simple question: if Christ visited your heart-home what would he find there? What festering resentment is stuck away in the hall closet of your heart? Are there books on the 'bookshelf' of your heart that you would not want Him to see? And your rec-room, is it suitable for a friend like Jesus, or would you rather not have your closest friend know what you do for pleasure?

You can see that our newest focus is not your usual by rote, read, and recite Bible verse study. We like to try new ways to study God's word, so as to expand our understanding of Scripture.

Why not start your Sunday in a new mode with us?

My Home Away From Home

by

Jim Lewis

I recently returned from my fourth trip to the Dominican Republic and have been struggling in my mind about how I could describe my trip to you. I could, as in previous years, describe the construction work we did. It is, undeniably, the biggest accomplishment of this trip that the roof of the church at Colegio Moriah at Las Colinas is now in place. The majority of that work was done by Dominican professionals (since it was imperative that it be done correctly), although several of our men were right in there working with them. I was not one of them.... The church roof is way too far off the ground for me – way out of my comfort zone. The cost for raising this concrete roof was \$60,000, raised by the dozen or so churches involved in this effort plus a late-received gift of \$10,000 from an individual in Maine that came as an answer to prayer (as we were \$10,000 short of what we needed to pay for this roof). There is always plumbing, electrical work, and painting to be done. This trip was no exception. We on the second team painted several classrooms and all the wrought iron railings constructed by the first team. Our people worked on improving and expanding the school's library and our medical team plied their trade on half a dozen bateys. (*Ed. note: "a batey is a company town where sugar workers live. They can be found in Cuba and the Dominican Republic." (Wikipedia.org)*)

As important as these things are, however, there are other less tangible accomplishments that are just as important. There is a fellowship between the team members that is as binding or more binding than the fellowship we have with many in our own home churches. There are no distractions in the evenings after dinner, so we have the opportunity to get to know our fellow travelers well. I always look forward to spending time with old friends with whom I've made this trip before and the opportunity to bond with new members. I spent two days painting wrought iron railings with a young (17 year old) lady from upstate New York. I know her hopes and aspirations and I pray for her and her success in achieving those goals. If I never see her again, she will always remain a special memory to me. Then, there is the preacher's wife (Colleen), also from upstate New York, with whom I shared my first two trips. She didn't come in 2010 because she and her husband were in the middle of adopting a little girl from China. She made this trip, however, and I was very happy to see her. Then there were others, old friends and new, too numerous to mention individually.

As important as my relationships with my teammates are, the relationships with the Haitian friends I have made over the years are just as important. On my first trip, I took along a pair of knit socks that my dear friend May McLaughlin had made for me to pass on to someone there. The socks were a very small children's size. Being the joker that I am (yes, I am!), I set out to convince one of the women who was doing our laundry that she had shrunk my socks. (I know, a mean thing to do.) When I held those socks up to her, she got a big smile on her face, patted her small but definitely pregnant stomach, gave me a hug and took the gift for her soon to be born child. She is an old friend I see every trip down there, and she is always happy to see me. Whenever I see her, it brings to mind May McLaughlin, a much loved friend who is sorely missed.

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When the Haitians take up the collection in church, they don't pass around a basket. Everyone joins the line and proceeds to the front where they place their donation in the receptacle at the front of the church. During one tent service on my first trip there (services were in a tent for my first two trips there), the collection procession was underway and the musicians were playing some particularly rousing calypso music. Feeling inspired, I danced my way to the front of the church and nearly brought the house down. (If you have ever seen me dance, you know why.) Two years later, on the first day of my second trip there, one of the ladies preparing our food squealed and said, "The man who dances came back!" She ran over and greeted me with a hug. On that same trip, as I walked to evening services in the dark one night (no, there aren't any street lights), one of the ladies from the congregation approached from the outer gate. When she saw me she came over and, without a word, hugged me and then turned and went in to church. These folks are truly my brothers and sisters in Christ.

While I was painting on the outside of the school one day this trip, a little girl of six or seven came up to me and spoke to me. Since the kids were all at recess and, as kids are wont to do were running around and being noisy, I didn't understand what she was saying and I tried to convey that to her. In a louder voice, and in perfect English, she said, "Qual es su nombre means what is your name." That served to highlight to me one of the important parts of our mission there. The education being afforded to these children will open up a brighter future for them. It will serve to help lift them (and their families) out of the grinding poverty they live in. I plan to sponsor a child for school this year (\$300 a year at \$25 a month), because I want to be part of that promise. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, see me. I'll get you the necessary information on how to do this.

Pastor Tanis Derolus, the Haitian pastor we have been working with, greets me as an old friend. He is always happy to see me, and I him. We got to know each other quite well on my last trip there on our many trips to town together to procure materials for our work.

There are many inspiring stories I could tell about how Pastor Tanis responded when Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was struck by an earthquake on our last trip there (2010); how Good Samaritan Hospital (the charity hospital in La Romana which was begun by our team 14 years ago with the purchase of land adjacent to the city dump and the construction of a wall along the property perimeter) was asked by the other area hospitals to lead the convoy to Port-au-Prince to take in food, water, and medical relief. Heretofore, the "charity" hospital had been looked down on because of the clientele they served. But, on this occasion, these other hospitals recognized that Good Samaritan knew how to deal with the people and the problems they were about to address in Haiti. So, their stock has increased in recent years (so to speak). By the way, that hospital is three stories high today, with two more floors going up and new and important medical services to be offered in the near future.

Someone once said that, "Mission work is the hardest work you will ever love." No truer words have ever been spoken. I look forward to returning to my home away from home in 2014, Good Lord willing. Maybe by then, we'll be breaking ground on a medical clinic for Pastor Tanis, the last part of his three-pronged plan for his site. I look forward to what the future holds.

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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 April 2012 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.

2012 Church Council: Shirley Beyer, Ken Bower, Donna Camp, Larry Green, Jim Lewis (church clerk), Vicki Lewis (council moderator), Ben Mazzullo, Penny Ohnmeiss, Lynn Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member), Duane Yeagle, Dan Yoas, Helen Yoas (treasurer, ex officio member)

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MARCH

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH MARCH				EACH WEDNESDAY:	EACH THURSDAY:	EACH SATURDAY:	
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>		1-3 pm – International Women’s Program 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm -Bible Study & <i>Wed</i> Prayer	7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal <i>Thu</i>	9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting <i>Fri</i>	
EACH SUNDAY: 9:30 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service	EACH MONDAY: Pastor’s Day Off				1 Association Pastors meet at Calvary B – Dwayne Koons	2 World Day of Prayer 1:30 pm – CWU at the Church of the Savior 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night B – Jason Collins	3 B – Janice Alston
4 2nd Sun. of Lent 10:40 am – Communion Service Fellowship Lunch. (pot luck) following worship service	5	6	7 B – Laura Collins	8	9	10	
11 3rd Sun. of Lent (Daylight Savings Time begins)	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18 4th Sun. of Lent Outreach Workshop at Central Baptist B – Grace Betts	19	20 Spring Equinox 7:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	21 B – Jolee Cumberland	22	23	24	
25 5th Sun. of Lent “Catch Up” Offering	26	27	28	29 B – Doris Paulhamus	30 B – Dan Yoas	31	
						Note: B- Birthday A - Anniversary	

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