

Calvary Baptist Courier

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

March 2016

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

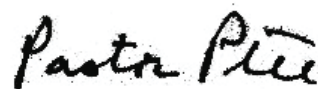
WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

If you could go back and enter a Christian meeting place in the first century or two after Jesus resurrected, you would notice immediately that something is missing. You would notice symbols of a fish (an early Christian symbol found everywhere: the first letters of the Greek words, “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior” spell the Greek word for “fish”; plus, a fish has other connotations from the gospels, like “go fish for people”) . One symbol you would not notice would be a cross. You might see people wearing small cross-shaped pins or pendants on a necklace, and the preaching would definitely be about the cross (the cross of Jesus and picking up your own cross daily), but the cross would not, really could not for several reasons, be used for some time as the primary public symbol that greets people today on church steeples, front doorways, and in sanctuaries.

The reason is that the cross back then was a synonym for capital punishment—and of a form of capital punishment so horrible that the words “cross” or “crucify” were not used in polite society. They conjured up such brutality and horror that the image of a cross was the equivalent of a pornographic image today. (It’s interesting to think that the Greeks and Romans had sexual pornography all around; a cross? No!) A cross in a sanctuary would be as shocking and misunderstood as a bottle of poison or a noose or a skull would be today.

We’ve tamed the symbolism of the cross. If we let it speak, it gives out two messages (really, three). First, the amazing news of God’s love and grace towards us. Second, the amazing old story of human brutality and heartless ness and vileness that would devise such a punishment—and do it to Jesus!—and that would devise such crimes that would elicit such a response. Third—the bad things that you and I are called to carry (the crosses that we pick up daily) because the world is so rotten and hostile towards anyone who follows Jesus.

Shalom,



COUNCIL NOTES

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on February 17, 2016. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of January 31, 2016, our expenditures were \$11,267.48 less than we took in. Pastor Pete will begin teaching "The Sermon on the Mount" in Tuesday Bible study from the John Stott study guide. He will provide study material or you can purchase the study guide at Amazon, Otto's Bookstore, etc. The Lewis's friend Jim Shannon passed away this month after a long battle with MS and its attendant medical issues. It was obvious at his funeral that he was well liked by many and will be missed. Pastor Pete assisted our friends at Agape Church with baptisms here at the end of January. The Partners in Ministry collection will begin soon (in lieu of the America for Christ collection). If you are interested in a mission opportunity, we have home repairs from New Jersey floods and the building of rubble houses in Haiti in the near future. See Pastor Pete for details. We will be serving breakfast here on Easter morning from 9 to 9:30 a.m., with Doris Paulhamus in charge and asking for volunteers to prepare breakfast casseroles in advance. There will be a bake sale on Election Day, April 26. We have a \$15,000 estimate to level the old parsonage and prepare it for paving for a parking lot. You may donate toward this on your offering envelope. Dave Snyder noted that there are plans to hold a movie night for church youth soon; details to be announced. Pastor Pete has authorized the use of the church as the backdrop for a film; see him for more information. Tentative plans have been laid for our annual church picnic on August 13. Further details will be provided later. A church trip on the Hiawatha was also suggested for later this year. If you would like to participate, let Pastor Pete know. Communion servers for March 6th will be Duane Yeagle, George Herrick, Dave Snyder Jr., and Helen Yoas. George Herrick will offer the prayer for the cup. Duane Yeagle will offer the prayer for the bread. The greeter for March will be Penny Ohnmeiss. The fellowship meal coordinators for March will be Jim and Dottie Lewis. The counters for March will be Dan and Helen Yoas. The next council meeting will be March 16 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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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 April 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 MARCH

<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: 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal		
		1 B – Dwayne Koons	2	3 B – Janice Brown	4 World Day of Prayer 7 p.m. – Family Games Night B – Moonsan Hpauda	5
6 4th Sun. of Lent Communion Service Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 5th Sun. of Lent (Daylight Saving Time begins)	14	15 A – Duane & Tammy Yeagle (3-15-14)	16 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	17	18 B – Grace (Paulhamus) Betts	19
20 PALM SUNDAY	21 B – Jolee Cumberland	22	24	24 Maundy Thurs. 7:00 p.m. – Upper Room Service (foot washing)	25 Good Friday	26
27 EASTER 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast in Fellowship Hall	28	29 B – Doris Paulhamus	30 B – Dan Yoas	31 B – Jace Traugh		B – Birthday A – Anniversaries

2016