

Calvary Baptist Courier

May 2015

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Rev. Peter C. Wilson, Pastor
Sandra L. Snyder, Secretary

MOTHER'S DAY/FATHER'S DAY

As we once again make our way into another year, and those annual holidays and special observance days once again show up on our calendars, and Earth once again reaches the arc in its orbit around the sun that we call May and June, we find ourselves once again at Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Annual holidays and observance days can seem like the same old, same old to preachers and others who are expected to come up with something to say. (Thank goodness no one expects to hear a sermon about Administrative Assistants' Day or National Hot Dog Day.) But, like the Lord's Supper, there are some same old, same old's that we need to be reminded of, and re-reminded of, in an endlessly repeated way, because so many around us have forgotten those same old, same old's and things are falling apart.

In our day and time, our community cannot afford for us to take a ho-hum attitude to Mother's Day and Father's Day—or to breeze past them with just a sentimental tribute to a simpler time. Mother's Day and Father's Day have the distinction (even beyond our bigger holidays like the Fourth of July or even Christmas and Easter) of having a source in the Ten Commandments; the command to deliberately honor fathers and mothers (Deuteronomy 5:16), the fifth commandment, was engraved in stone (i.e., an Old Testament law for all time). In fact, the verse itself implies that lack of doing so will result in societal decay.

So let's not only think about our own mothers and fathers as if these days are just about them (like their birth- or death-date is). And let's not even just think about the patterns God designed for parenting. But let's pray for specific moms and dads and couples we know, starting with those with young children who are in our own congregation and in our church's neighborhood mission field and in your own workplace or wherever you regularly interact with other people. Will you honor all of "your" fathers and mothers (all those mothers and fathers in "your" world) by praying for them in their special, vital, difficult calling, with so much potential for good, or for evil?

Shalom ,



COUNCIL NOTES

By Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on March 24, 2015. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of February 28, 2015, our expenditures were \$14,488.28 less than we took in. Our good friend and fellow Christian, Betty Brown, passed away on February 25, 2015. She will be sorely missed by all. If you haven't already noticed, take a look at the bulletin board between the restrooms. Sue Green has done a nice job of showing where the Compassion children supported by church members live. Thanks, Sue. (She still needs a few photos to complete the display ...) The fellowship meal for April will be on the 12th rather than Easter Sunday. On Easter morning at 9 AM, there will be a free continental breakfast in the fellowship hall. All are invited (no cost, no dish required.) Games Night will be moved a week also, rather than holding it on Good Friday. It will be on April 10th. The fellowship hall will be getting painted in the near future. If you would like to help with this, contact Dan Yoas. Plans are afoot to put a handrail on the concrete steps between the fellowship hall and the parking lot. We are planning on another church work day on April 18th; everyone is welcome to come help. See Dan Yoas for details. The ABCOPAD Youth Conference meeting here in late April is looking for a work project for their participants. If you know of a project they can do while they are here, contact Pastor Pete. The THRIVE Coffeehouse event went very well. The ladies of the church will be working on pillowcase dresses on April 11th. You are invited to participate in the project, or provide pillowcases toward the effort. See Sue Green for details. Election Day is coming up in May. Look for another bake sale to help with. No details available at present. As you read this, our Seder meal will have taken place on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd. If you didn't participate, you missed an interesting event. The greeter for April will be Doris Paulhamus. The counters for April will be Dan and Helen Yoas. The fellowship meal coordinator will be Elizabeth Koons. The next council meeting will be April 21st, at 7 p.m.

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The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on April 21, 2015. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of March 31, 2015, our expenditures were \$11,264.64 less than we took in. The Maundy Thursday Seder meal and Easter services went well. Pastor Pete recently performed wedding services for Lasham, one of our Burmese brethren, at the Lantz home. We are still looking for individuals who would like to sing or perform special music this summer. See Pastor Pete if interested. The church picnic is set for August 8th this year. The venue is not yet established. The One Great Hour of Sharing missing collection is coming up in June. Election Day is May 19th and we will be holding a bake sale. See Doris Paulhamus if you would like to donate items or help man the table. Pastor Pete noted that he would like to keep AWANA going beyond the traditional May 1st closing date for the summer. The kids participating asked for this. The ladies of the church will be holding their Spring tea on May 2nd. The "Against the Flow" youth event an ABCOPAD effort, was held here in April. Around 35 young people participated and had a good time. They participated in numerous volunteer efforts in the area as part of their program. The VBS program this year will take place from August 3rd to 7th. The theme has not yet been established. The greeter for may will be Dottie Lewis; the counters will be Sandy Snyder and Dave Snyder Jr. The fellowship meal coordinator will be Penny Ohnmeiss. Larry Green, Dave Lantz, Dave Snyder Jr., and Lynn Turney will act as servers for the May 3rd communion service. Robin Turney and Helen Yoas will offer the prayers for the bread and the cup. The next council meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 7 p.m.

(Editor's note: this includes notes which should have appeared in the April 2015 newsletter. I apologize that I was unable to publish a newsletter for that month.)

A Message About This Year's Theme: "Give and Change the World."

"For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.'"

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12-15

As we look around, it is easy to see a complicated, conflict-ridden, unbalanced world with needs almost too great to measure. And yet, by the grace of God, we have been given resources to share, and the gifts we give make the world more the way God intended it to be—a place where everyone has what they need. Together, even in the midst of what can seem like staggering need, we can work to achieve a fair balance on this planet we all share, giving right back to God what God has so richly bestowed upon us.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is this opportunity to share our abundance with others in need.

When the Apostle Paul visited the early churches in Macedonia, they became incredibly excited about the ministry opportunities he laid before them. Namely, to be a part of an offering that would be received for the poor and the suffering in Jerusalem. These early followers of Jesus couldn't help but get caught up in Paul's contagious zeal for the ways God was working in their midst. So much so, in fact, that they actually pleaded to be a part of the "service to the saints" Paul spoke of while visiting their community—even though they were themselves living in poverty. This "ministry to the saints," referred to in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, is another name for the offering Paul and the early churches were organizing for those in distant Jerusalem. Never once is the term "offering" used anywhere in the text, yet it is referred to as a "ministry," or a "service." The offering was considered a ministry; in other words, a spiritual calling, a living out of one's faith, an expression of religious conviction.

So why, exactly, was Paul facilitating this offering? For those who were hungry, poverty-stricken, and in crisis. The needs among the people in Jerusalem, due to a devastating famine, were immense. Thus, Paul's church-wide offering was not only practical in leveraging funds so they could make the most impact, together, but it was also one of the first visible expressions of the early Church's unity in Christ.

As people whose lives are intimately connected, we are granted the opportunity to give back to God by giving to others. The Message translates it this way, "Nothing left over to the one with the most; nothing lacking to the one with the least."

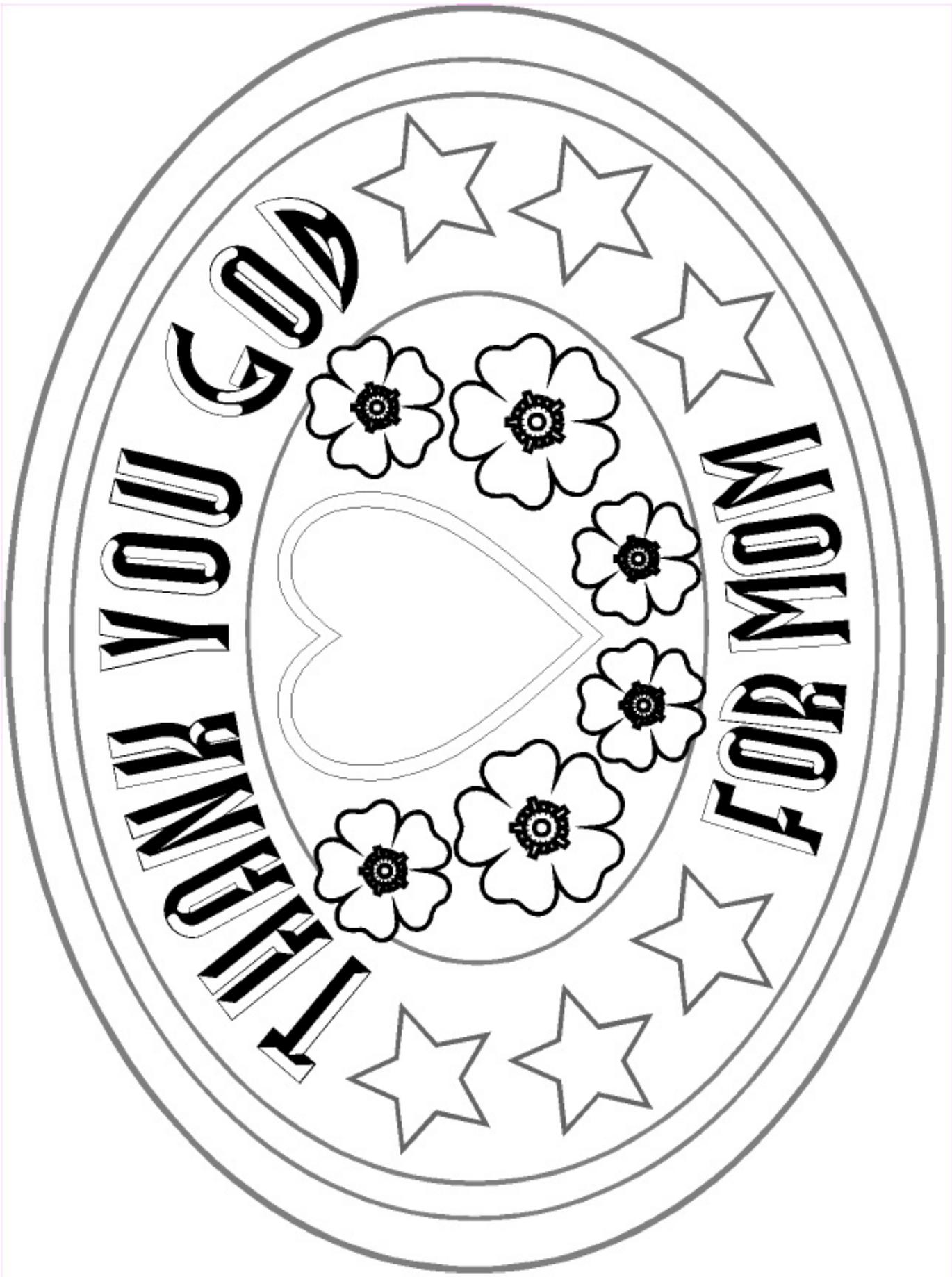
This is still our ministry today. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own congregation or community, and at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in desperate need of our compassion and generosity. For almost seven decades we have been making a difference, together—and glorifying God—through this offering which funds relief, development, and refugee ministry all over the world and in the U.S.

Together, we will achieve a fair balance, bringing about a world the way God intended it to be.

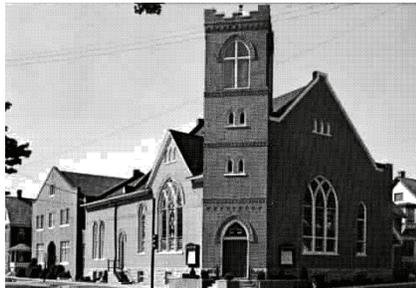
Give and change the world.

Thank you!





Calvary Baptist Church
42 Washington Blvd.
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570-322-7256



God's house of worship on the hill since 1869

Website: <http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com>

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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 June 2015 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.

2015 Church Council: Larry Green, Sue Green, Dave Lantz, Jim Lewis (ex officio member and church clerk), Doris Paulhamus, David Snyder Jr., Sandy Snyder, Lynn Turney, Robin Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member and interim moderator), Helen Yoas (ex officio member and treasurer)

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MAY**

<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 Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service 7 pm – Multi-language Bible Study	EACH MONDAY: PASTOR'S DAY OFF 6:30-8 pm – Chinese - Elementary School and Middle/High School Classes 6:30-8 pm – Spanish - Middle/High School Class 7:30-9 pm – ESL Class*	EACH TUESDAY: 7-8:30 pm – Spanish High School/Adult Classes	EACH WEDNESDAY: 4:45-7 pm – AWANA Youth Clubs (K-12 grade) 7:00 pm – Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7:30-9 pm – ESL Class*	EACH THURSDAY: Choir Rehearsal	1 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	2 3:00 p.m. – Ladies' Spring Tea
3 Communion Service Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service A – Jim & Dottie Lewis (5-03-14)	4	5	6 A – Michael & Rachel Dance (5-06-06)	7	8	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY	11	12 B – Rob Wozniak	13	14	15	
17	18 B – Mary Wozniak	19 ELECTION DAY Food & Bake Sale 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	20	21	22 → Kathy Foust's	23 A – Dave & Jody Lantz (5-23-98) Pre-School Grad.←
24 PENTECOST	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 B – Rebekah (Foust) Albitz B – Karen Mazzullo A – Lynn & Robin Turney (5-28-77)	29	30
31 A – Dan & Helen Yoas (5-31-86)						Note: B – Birthday A - Anniversaries *English-as-a Second- Language Class

2015