

Calvary Baptist Courier

May 2016

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

There's a word that has been bandied around quite a bit in recent months. Pundits discussing the Republican presidential primary races have been talking about "xenophobia." "Phobia" is an old Greek word that has lived on into contemporary English; it means "fear". The movie *Arachnophobia* was about the fear of spiders. Xenophobia is "fear of strangers" and is used today more specifically for fear of foreigners.

The New Testament apostles, writing in Greek, call us as disciples of Jesus, to "practice philoxenia". "Philo" (as in "Philadelphia", brotherly love) is a word for love. Philoxenia is "love of strangers". We practice PHILOXenia as opposed to xenoPHOBIA.

In English, "love" primarily means an emotion. In Hebrew and Greek it means primarily an action, which may or may not have an emotion behind it. That is why the King James translators wisely translated one Greek word as "charity" instead of just as "love". "Charity" doesn't just feel—or even feel at all—but it acts lovingly to another. And they translated "philoxenia" (love of strangers) not as "love of strangers" but as ... hospitality.

When the New Testament calls us to hospitality it does not mean to serve nice food on a beautifully set table. It means to do loving things for strangers (and foreigners). In today's language, its old meaning is seen in the word "hospital". At a hospital, needy strangers show up. Sometimes their need is inner and unseen (an inflamed gallbladder). Sometimes it is a dirty, gut-wrenching compound fracture or smelly oozing sore.

The house of the Lord is a hospital—as Jesus said, for the sick not the well ... and we are all sick! We church folks are also all orderlies. If we are a good hospital, the Lord will bring us people who need the kind of care you want for yourself or a loved one to receive at Williamsport or Evan or Divine or Muncy. That is how the Great Physician expects us to treat whoever comes to Him for care, regardless of how sick or well they may seem at first sight, regardless of their past, regardless of their ethnicity or other "foreignness" to you or me (tattoos, clothing, vocabulary, smell). He wants His children, reborn in Jesus, reflecting the family likeness, cured from the world's cancer of xenophobia, hospitable to each and every stranger and foreigner who comes our way. They are not strangers or foreigners to our Father, the Great Physician, who invites them to His house, His hospital, His practice, at Calvary.

Shalom ,



COUNCIL NOTES

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on April 20, 2016. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of March 31, 2016, our expenditures were \$15,327.27 less than we took in. The Gideon Society held their annual presentation here on April 17th; it was well received. We held a foot washing ceremony here on Maundy Thursday. Pastor Pete recently attended a pastors' retreat at Camp Judson on Lake Erie. The choir is on hiatus for the summer, but Arthur is working with individuals/groups interested in providing special music over the summer, possibly even a children's group. We are in dire need of additional volunteers for the nursery during services. Ideally, there should be two people there whenever children are being cared for. Please prayerfully consider adding your name to the list of volunteers. We have collected about \$300 for Partners in Ministry so far; please prayerfully consider donating. The One Great Hour of Sharing collection will be coming up later in May. Mark Mahserjian-Smith is in Nicaragua helping install water systems in small villages and welcomes our prayers. The bake sale on Election Day went well; thanks to all who helped with baked goods, donations of their time, or both. The broken door mechanisms on Packer Street have been repaired; the glass on the main entrance is on order. There has been discussion by the council about an alarm system for the church given recent events (drug paraphernalia found in the parking lot, etc.) We are in discussion with other churches about the possibility of helping them with their Vacation Bible School this fall rather than holding one here. Pastor Pete is proud to announce that we now have second generation AWANA participants (the children of former participants). That is quite a milestone. There have been suggestions of a church barbecue for the neighborhood and AWANA groups. There may be some legal requirements we will need to meet before doing this; discussions will continue. Sue Green brought up the possibility of having a summer yard sale here this year; details will be provided as they are firmed up. Four members of Calvary took part in the Heroin Walk in April. Pastor Pete has an idea of setting up religious vignettes in various rooms in the church to be manned and acted out by members of the church; further details will follow. Our church picnic will be at the pavilion at the Montoursville boat dock on August 13th this year. May assignments: greeter, Dottie Lewis; fellowship meal, Doris Paulhamus; counters, Jim and Dottie Lewis; communion servers—Dave Snyder Jr., Helen Yoas, Jim Lewis, and Duane Yeagle. Larry Green and Janice Brown offered the communion prayers. The next council meeting will be on May 17th at 7 p.m.

NEWS

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.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected in late May. Further details and our 2016 goal are coming soon. Your donations will "support, enable and encourage emergency relief, refugee work, disaster rehabilitation, and development assistance."

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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 June 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
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 & Adult Classes 10:40 am – Worship Service	EACH MONDAY: PASTOR'S DAY OFF	EACH TUESDAY: 5:30-7 pm – Kid's Club	EACH WEDNESDAY: 7 pm – Bible Study & Prayer Meeting			
1 Communion Service Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service	2	3 A – Jim & Dottie Lewis (5-3-14)	4	5	6 7 p.m. – Family Games Night A – Michael & Rachel Dance (5-6-06)	7
8 MOTHER'S DAY	9	10	11	12 B – Rob Wozniak	13	14
15 PENTECOST	16	17 <u>7:00</u> p.m. – Church Council Meeting	18 B – Mary Wozniak	19	20 5:30 p.m. – Kathy Foust set-up for preschool grad.	21 11 a.m. – Kathy's Kittens Preschool graduation
22	23 A – Dave & Jody Lantz (5-23-98)	24	25	26	27	28 B – Rebekah (Foust) Albitz B – Karen Mazzullo A – Lynn & Robin Turney (5-28-77)
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31 A – Dan & Helen Yoas (5-31-86)				B – Birthday A – Anniversaries

2016