

Calvary Baptist Courier

November 2011

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

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

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Since I got back from my tour of Biblical sites in western Turkey, my life—and to a large extent, that of our church family—has been taken up with funerals AND a wedding! (AND an infant dedication!) We've all gotten a little overwhelmed with details and rearranging schedules, but remember our broad purpose: God has called us together to use us to bring the light of His truth to people who largely live in spiritual darkness—and these past weeks, in all these different services, have certainly seen our congregation bring God's truths to a whole lot of people who have come to those special services who may never go to other types of Christian gatherings. So ... now that things return a bit more to normal, pray for those folks that the Lord brought to us these past weeks, that the light they've recently encountered would continue to challenge much of what they have been living by and draw them to Him and to His cities set on a hill.

Along those same lines, invite someone to church in these next weeks. Thanksgiving, Christmas—these are holidays that often bring feelings of loneliness or spiritual yearning to the surface. You don't need to “share the gospel” in the sense of Bible verses and persuasion. Many folks these days are Nathanaels, who just need someone to invite them to “come and see” (John 1:43-51). Where Jesus' followers gather—whether in worship or a fellowship meal, a games night or sewing pillowcase dresses—He is there (Matthew 18:20), and all those settings are great places for folks to just “come and see.”

Shalom,

Peter P. Lee

Council Notes

by James D. Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church council met on October 18, 2011. This is a synopsis of that meeting. As of the end of September, we are \$11,933.30 in the red. The flood relief collection for the Brinser family came to \$622. Pastor Pete has provided these funds to them to help them meet expenses. The CLI classes starting in January will be presented on line. Future classes may or may not be on line. Our church was well represented on the Life Chain on the Golden Strip. Wednesday night Bible study on Acts has been completed. We will continue with the books following Acts. The last month has been a sad one for our congregation, with several members going to be with the Lord (Ed Chaapel on September 26th, Paul Winner on September 28th, and Doreen Slaybaugh on October 9th). Our prayers go with their families. Pastor Pete has ordered materials for the Christmas shoebox project. Completed shoeboxes need to be in by November 21st. The World Mission Offering will be coming up in the near future. The council voted to send \$1000 from our missions funds to the Wellsboro Baptist Church for construction materials for the Dominican Republic mission trip in which Duane Yeagle and Jim Lewis will be participating in December and January. Pastor Pete is putting together plans for a local outreach program to the families in our area as demonstrated at the last ABCOPAD biennial conference (batteries for smoke detectors to introduce our church to the local community). Vicki Lewis and Duane Yeagle have agreed to come back on the church council (assuming approval of the congregation). We are looking for an individual interested in being on the pastoral relations committee. Contact Dan Yoas or Vicki Lewis if you are interested in participating. Ten ladies participated in the recent women's breakfast. An enjoyable time was had by all. We will begin our annual canned goods drive next Saturday with a stone soup program. The ladies of the church will be participating in a sewing project making dresses from pillowcases for children in Africa on November 12th. November 8th is Election Day. Pastor Pete is looking for a volunteer interested in leading our usual baked sale effort (and others to donate baked goods). If you are interested in helping with this effort, contact Pastor Pete. The greeter for November will be Jim Lewis. The counters for November will be Lynn Turney and Helen Yoas. The fellowship meal coordinator for November will be Marianne Hopkins. Dan Yoas, Larry Green, and Jim Lewis volunteered to be communion servers for November. Jim Lewis will offer the prayer for the bread; Ken Bower will offer the prayer for the cup. The next council meeting will be November 8, 2011.



God gives strength and courage to His servants to undertake various missions. Some of those servants, like Duane Yeagle and Jim Lewis, travel to distant places like the Dominican Republic, where lives and needs are so different from our own. Not everyone is willing or able to make such trips, but there are many other ways to serve in the mission field. That's why, although the American Baptist Women of Calvary aren't going to Africa, their pillowcases are! On Saturday, Nov. 12, at 9:00 a.m., come join the Baptist women for a work-day and learn how to turn pillowcases into [Little Dresses for Africa](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org). No sewing ability is necessary: cutters and ironers are needed too. Karen Mazzullo has made several dresses, and this photo certainly seems to say that she enjoyed making them as much as their recipients will enjoy receiving them. For more information, and more smiling faces, visit the Gallery at the website above or go to <http://www.littledressesforafrica.org>. One final note: Jim and Duane will also be taking some of the little dresses with them to the Dominican Republic on their trip this winter, to let little girls there know that they are special, too.

Something New, Something Old for the December Adult Sunday School

Beginning December 4, the adult Sunday school will take up the *something new*, a new twelve-week study course. And the *something old*? The subject of the quarter's lessons will be **Old Testament Characters**.

The next quarter from December to March, will use an InterVarsity Press guide of that title for a look at some figures of the Old Testament—some of whom are very familiar, such as Abraham or Jonah, and some not so familiar, such as Hannah and Achan (does the importance of those names immediately jump to mind?).

We have found that use of the InterVarsity Press study guides leads to stimulating and interesting group discussions that often go far afield from the text, adding to our understanding of Scripture and our Christian walk.

Here is a listing of the chapter headings:

Getting the Most From *Old Testament Characters*

1. Jonah: Running from God - *Jonah 1:1--3:3*
2. Hannah: Praying in Pain - *1 Samuel 1*
3. Samuel: Hearing God's Voice - *1 Samuel 3*
4. Abraham: Following God's Call - *Genesis 12*
5. Caleb & Joshua: Overcoming the Impossible - *Numbers 13:26--14:10*
6. Elijah: Knowing God's Power - *1 Kings 18:16-40*
7. Achan: Sin in the Community - *Joshua 7*
8. King Saul: Doing Almost All of God's Will - *1 Samuel 15:1-23*
9. Daniel: Tempted to Compromise - *Daniel 1*
10. Esther: Saying Yes to God - *Esther 4*
11. David: Loving Your Enemy - *1 Samuel 24*
12. Moses: Seeking Justice - *Exodus 2:11-25*

Please consider joining our study group for a faith-enhancing Sunday morning.

- The 2011 church directory project began earlier this year on a snowy day which left many of those with photo appointments unable to keep them. We've recently been given another opportunity to have photos taken. Two churches in our area have scheduled portrait sittings: Church of Our Savior, 522 Grier St., Williamsport—326-7082 (Nov. 11 & 12), and Messiah Lutheran Church, 324 S. Howard St., South Williamsport—326-9171 (Nov. 25, 26, 28, & 29, and Dec. 2 & 3) If you are interested, call the church and make an appointment. You will need to give the scheduler our contract number (#59345), and tell the photographer you are from Calvary Baptist Church. Work on production of our directory will commence as soon as possible after the above dates.
- A budget deficit of nearly \$12,000.00 was reported in the Council Notes on the previous page. As another winter approaches, accompanied by rising heating and utility costs, expenses will rise as well. So far this year, the church's receipts have been more than \$20,000 below what was projected in the 2011 budget. Please prayerfully consider the level of your church contributions so that we can turn around this shortfall and continue the work of the church. Thank you—Finance Committee.

Reminiscences which began last month after the sudden passing of May McLaughlin on September 14th have continued. Donna Camp remembered May by dedicating to her a poem that she wrote as a child.

To May McLaughlin A True Friend

Friendship is delicate like the wings of a butterfly.
To treat it roughly is to know that that friendship will die.
It blossoms like a flower with beauty and fragrance for all to see.
When people know the meaning of true humility.
Friendship asks nothing, but gives everything in return.
Freely it gives love and tenderness that one can never earn.
It blossoms and grows more beautiful with time.
But true friendship is elusive and truly hard to find.
And I thank God that I was privileged to have such a friend.
I know I will see you again someday in heaven above.
I know you are bringing joy to God in heaven now.
And so for now my friend I send you my love.

It was the editor's intention this month to honor the memories of Ed Chaapel, who died on Sept. 26, and General Paul Winner, who died on Sept. 28, both veterans of World War II, in remembrance of Veterans' Day. Since then, however, our church family has suffered further losses with the passings of Doreen Slaybaugh on October 9 and Eileen Berger on October 21. For this reason, with no lessening in honor and gratitude to all veterans of the Armed Forces who have fought for our lives and freedom in so many earthly conflicts, it seems appropriate to remember spiritual battles as well. President Harry Truman wrote in 1946, after the end of the Second World War, "We have just come through a decade in which forces of evil in various parts of the world have been lined up in a bitter fight to banish from the face of the earth ... religion and democracy. For these forces of evil have long realized that both religion and democracy are founded on one basic principle, the worth and dignity of the individual man and woman." Think, then, of the words of *Onward, Christian Soldiers*:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle see His banners go! Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before.

So, although some of our Christian soldiers are, as Donna said above, "bringing joy to God in heaven now," we can honor their memories by continuing their fight. President Truman concluded his statement, "This is a supreme opportunity for the Church to continue to fulfill its mission on earth, and to provide the shock forces to accomplish this moral and spiritual awakening. No other agency can do it." This is still true 66 years after World War II, and we can take the opportunity to rededicate ourselves, our prayers, and our church to the efforts to fulfill that mission. As Pastor Pete said in last month's newsletter, "The work fields are there, in and around Calvary. We need people and resources to do the things some of us feel God has for us to do. Let's ask people to come join us in growing in Him and in serving Him. God sends no churches from the skies, it's from our hearts they must arise."

- **Our third annual canned food drive** for our neighbors in need began with the second annual Stone Soup meal on Saturday, October 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, an occasion with both good soup and good fellowship. Please continue to bring your canned food items with you to church so we can build a wall of cans and exceed last year's total of 404. We will be collecting until Sunday, November 20th. - Thank you - American Baptist Women of Calvary.

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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 December 2011 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.**

2011 Church Council: Shirley Beyer, Ken Bower, Donna Camp, Larry Green, Sue Green, Jim Lewis (church clerk, ex officio member), Ben Mazzullo, Penny Ohnmeiss, Kathy Temple (moderator), Deb Titus, Lynn Turney, Pastor Peter Wilson (ex officio member), Dan Yoas

NOVEMBER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

B – Birthday A – Anniversary

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			EACH WEDNESDAY: 5-7 pm – AWANA Sparks and T & T Clubs 7 pm – Bible Study and Prayer	EACH THURSDAY: 2-4 pm – International Women's Program 7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal		EACH SATURDAY: 9 am – Evangelism Team Prayer Meeting
EACH SUNDAY: 9:30 am – Kids Club, College Class and Adult Class 10:40 am – Worship Service	EACH MONDAY: Pastor's Day Off 3-5 pm - International Women's Program	1	2	3	4 1:30 p.m. – CWU World Community Day 7:00 p.m. – Family Games Night	5
6 Communion Fellowship Luncheon ("Thanksgiving" pot luck) following worship service	7	8 Election Day Food & Bake Sale 7:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	9 A – Keith & Melissa Cumberland (11-09-02)	10	11 Veteran's Day B – Dave Lantz	12
13 2:30 p.m. – Northumberland Assoc. Mtg. here B – Larry Green	14	15	16	17 A – Tim & Candy Clark (11-17-01)	18	19
20 Christmas Child Shoebboxes are due Canned Food Drive ends	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving B – David Snyder, Jr.	25 B – Chris Clark A – Ben & Karen Mazzullo (11-25-65)	26
27 1st Sun. Advent 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School hour – decorate church for Christmas "catch up" offering	28	29	30			

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