

Calvary Baptist Courier

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

November 2015

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

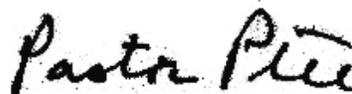
HARVEST TIME

One aspect of Jesus' parables that made them such an effective teaching method was that many scenes in them (sowing seeds; owing money; baking bread) were so common that His first-century disciples would be reminded of His parables frequently just by events in everyday life.

Our culture is very different, but even urban, technology-oriented people are reminded at Thanksgiving of agricultural harvesting—a picture Jesus uses often to portray a big part of your life as a follower of His among the people of your world. You are in a neighborhood, family, job-site, club: they are your world, your mission field, your harvest field. As part of a church body also, you share responsibility for the harvest field around your church home-site. If you have not already begun thinking of yourself in that way—and praying about it—and doing it, you should use the harvest displays and activities in the weeks ahead to help you let that vision sink in.

When you see a harvest display at Wegman's, say a prayer for the church neighborhood kids that have started coming to Awana this fall and are so excited and are bringing friends. Pray for a heart in yourself to invite an acquaintance from work or school or a club to go to a symphony Christmas program—and then to church for a special service (or just a regular service) during the holiday season. (Surveys have told us that a very large percentage of people will come to church if invited by someone—especially if that person brings them as well). Jesus told us that long ago; He sees people's hearts and He says the harvest is plentiful (He tells us because we can't see it!) He says the prayers need to be directed to His followers, that they would go out and bring them in. This is one opportunity you and I are given where we can answer a prayer of Jesus (instead of the other way around!). Be the answer to Jesus' prayer this fall! Go out into the harvest fields of your world and bring in those who are ready. What a special Thanksgiving and Christmas season they will have—and you—and Jesus!

Shalom ,



COUNCIL NOTES

by Jim Lewis

The Calvary Baptist Church Council met on October 21, 2015. This is a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting. As of September 30, 2015, our expenses were \$13,717.26 less than we took in. The church's rental unit is vacant at this time; if you know anyone interested in renting, please advise Pastor Pete. Both the men's and women's groups at Calvary held breakfasts in September which were enjoyed by all that participated. Our old friend and fellow member of Calvary, Jean Reed Snyder, passed away this past month. She was a tireless worker and a good friend. She will be missed. The Association Fall Fair, normally held in Milton, has been cancelled for this year. The annual Life Chain went well this year. Pastor Pete is looking for more individuals to participate in the Christmas Cantata this year. Thanks to our generous congregation the World Mission Offering exceeded its goal this year; thanks to all who gave so generously. Operation Christmas Child has begun their drive for this year—the deadline for packages is November 15th and literature is available in the lounge. There will be a bake sale during the general election in November: bring your donations in before Tuesday. Sandy Snyder and Robin Turney will be cycling off the church council this year. If the nominating committee approaches you about joining the council, please consider it prayerfully. Helen Yoas asks anyone with input for the 2016 budget to pass it on as soon as possible, please. The church parking lot has recently been resurfaced; the old windows on Fellowship Hall adjacent to the parking lot have recently been painted; and Steam Specialists have been working to repair the steam lines in the basement that serve the boiler system. Dave Snyder Jr. is working to raise funds to purchase replacements for the broken table games in the basement for the AWANA kids. If you would like to donate toward this cause, please note your donation on your offering envelope. The Philadelphia Race Track Ministry will be our White Cross project again this year, with collections coming soon. Rite Aid Pharmacy requested space to run a flu shot clinic here in late October. The sidewalk in front of our rental unit is in need of repair. If you would like to donate toward this cause, please note it on your offering envelope; we have a quote of \$1,975.00 for this work. The Christmas candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m. this year. Doris Paulhamus will be the fellowship meal coordinator for November; Elizabeth Koons will be the greeter; Helen and Dan Yoas are the counters. Communion servers will be Jim Lewis, Helen Yoas, Dave Snyder Jr., and Larry Green. Robin Turney will offer the prayer for the bread; George Herrick will offer the prayer for the cup. The next council meeting will be November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

NEWS

You may recall a poster for this year's **World Mission Offering** campaign from last month's newsletter, stating our goal of \$500.00. Mission Chair Robin Turney would like to thank all those who contributed to that goal being met and exceeded, with a total of \$800.00 in donations!

WHITE CROSS - The ABW (American Baptist Women) of Calvary is again supporting Chaplain Rick Bunker as he provides the love of Jesus to racetrack workers at Philadelphia Park Race Track. Please visit the pumpkin patch in the church lounge where you can pick a pumpkin of your choice to help with this ministry. For more information about the ministry visit <http://www.rtca-pa.org/>.

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 Ping Pong, 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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (Shoebox Ministry) - It's time to begin this annual ministry of preparing shoeboxes to send to children all over the world. The collection date to bring your boxes in is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15. Check with Robin or Lynn Turney about getting one of the shoeboxes to fill, and get more information at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>.



REV. MARK MAHERJIAN-SMITH
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When was the last time you were willing to risk for God? When was the last time you decided you would not take the safe path but instead, answer God's call to risk and place your trust in him? In Mark Batterson's book, *The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears*, he talks about the importance of risk. Batterson writes: "There are higher heights and deeper depths in prayer, and God wants to take you there. He wants to take you places you have never been before. There are new dialects. There are new dimensions. But if you want God to do something new in your life, you can't do the same old thing. It will involve more sacrifice, but if you are willing to go there, you'll realize that you didn't sacrifice anything at all. It will involve more risk, but if you are willing to go there, you'll realize that you didn't risk anything at all. Make the sacrifice. Take the risk. Draw the circle."

Later in the book, Batterson states: "The greatest chapters in history always begin with risk, and the same is true with the chapters of your life. If you're unwilling to risk your reputation, you'll never build the boat like Noah or get out of the boat like Peter. You cannot build God's reputation if you aren't willing to risk yours. There comes a moment when you need to make the call or make the move. Circle makers are risk takers. Moses had learned this lesson well: If you don't take the risk, you forfeit the miracle."

We can encounter opportunities to risk for the Kingdom at any moment of our lives but often these opportunities to risk increase dramatically while on a mission trip. Answering Jesus' call to leave the safety and security of your own home, your own church, your own community and serve others involves risk but also provides a chance to experience God's remarkable answers to prayer and divine presence.

While on the mission trip to New Jersey this summer, I had one of those opportunities. One team was given the task of helping a woman named Tracey who had lost her mobile home to Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy had destroyed the trailer park where Tracey's mobile home was located, washing all the homes out to sea. Tracey and her granddaughter had been homeless for months and only last fall was Tracey able to purchase a used mobile home. Sadly, unbeknownst to Tracey, the mobile home she purchased was in horrible condition. Although the inside of the trailer looked great, there were significant structural issues the seller had not revealed to Tracey. Problems with the floor, electrical service, plumbing and more, made what looked like a nice place to live unlivable. Our job was to make as many repairs as possible to Tracey's mobile home.

One significant challenge the team faced was to reinsulate the underside of the mobile home. The previous owner had removed the fiberglass insulation under the trailer because it had been damaged by the storm. This insulation had not been replaced

and the previous owner did not disclose this fact at the time of the sale. To reinsulate the mobile home would mean working in a very tight crawl space. We also learned Animal Control had removed a family of 19 possums living under the trailer. When we were given a list of jobs that needed to be accomplished I told Jesus I was not going under the trailer. There was no way that job was for me. I could see myself having back issues in the crawl space and the team needing to call 911 to get me out.

Although a few teenagers were willing to tackle the insulation project, they finally said they would have to give up unless someone with some experience joined them under the trailer. Again, I told Jesus this was not a job I was willing to do. When Tracey heard we were considering abandoning the project, she began to cry. I sat down with Tracey at her dining room table to listen to her story and pray for her. After about 30 minutes or more of listening to Tracey and praying with her, I realized Jesus was calling me to go under the trailer.

For the next couple of days, myself and a handful of teenagers took on the job of insulating Tracey's trailer. All of us were wearing hazmat suits, respirators and goggles as we worked in the summer heat. Amazingly the job was completed, and during our breaks we had a chance to share the Gospel with Tracey. Jesus protected us and provided for us through the project. This became a highlight of my summer. If you check out Facebook you can actually see pictures of the team in our hazmat suits working under the trailer.

There are many mission trips scheduled for 2016. Each trip will offer opportunities to encounter risk and chances for your faith to grow. I hope you will consider joining a team. If you have questions or need help with a mission trip, please be sure to contact me. Jesus has great things waiting for you if you are willing to risk and to trust him. ■



YOU'RE
INVITED

to make a difference
in a child's life!



NHS
HUMAN SERVICES

Foster Care

NHS's foster care programs are in need of families to open their hearts and homes to children in need. The need is especially great for families who are open to working with youth over the age of 12.

- Families are needed in Susquehanna Valley
- Foster families receive a generous, tax-free stipend and 24/7 support from staff
- NHS Employees receive a \$250 bonus if someone they refer becomes an approved foster parent

Please help us spread the word about these open houses for anyone interested in foster parenting.

Sunbury Office

140 Pennsylvania Ave.
Sunbury, PA 17801
November 12, 2015
1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Williamsport Office

1990 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
November 19, 2015
1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

RSVPs are appreciated, but not required.

Please contact Cindy Brown at 814-599-5012 or crbrown@nhsonline.org for more information about becoming a foster parent or to RSVP for one of the Open Houses.

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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 December 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, 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
NOVEMBER**

<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 7 pm – Multi-language Bible Study @ 1314 Almond St.	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: 6 pm – Choir Rehearsal		
1 <i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i> Communion Service Fellowship Luncheon (pot luck) following the worship service	2 B – Lillyanna Colley	3 <i>Election Day</i> Bake Sale	4	5	6 7 p.m. – Family Games Night B – Scott Hecker B – LumNyoï Hpauda	7
8	9 A – Keith & Melissa Cumberland (11-9-02)	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> B – Dave Lantz	12	13 B – Larry Green	14
15 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due B – Chris Traugh	16	17 A – Tim & Candy Clark (11-17-01)	18 7:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24 B – Dave Snyder, Jr.	25 B – Christopher Clark A – Ben & Karen Mazzullo (11-25-65)	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	27	28
29 <i>1st Sun. of Advent</i>	30					Note: B – Birthday A – Anniversary

2015