



HERALD

Calvary Baptist Church

314 South Franklin Road

Mt. Airy, NC 27030

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VOLUME XXIX No. 22 NOVEMBER 18 —DECEMBER 1, 2011



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
OFFICE HOURS

Thursday, November 24—Office Closed
Friday, November 25—Office Closed

In case of an emergency during this time, you may call
David Stone at 336-401-5898 or Danny Lineberry
336-745-1320.

A Christmas Tradition...with a Twist!

The giving of 'Chrismon Tree Gifts' is a beautiful part of the Christmas tradition here at Calvary. Not only do the gifts add a festive note to our sanctuary and its holiday decorations. They also represent one concrete way that we are seeking to live into the spirit of the season by being a blessing to others. This year—as in years past—our congregation will once again be collecting unwrapped gifts to place under the Chrismon Tree. However, we'll be observing this tradition *with a couple of minor variations.*

First, because we won't be having a separate "Hanging of the Greens" service this year, we will make a small change to the way we *collect* the gifts. As is customary, you can bring unwrapped gifts to the church anytime, beginning with the first Sunday in December (December 4, 2011). But this year, the 'highpoint' of our gift collecting will be the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18th, rather than the Hanging of the Greens service.

In addition, we will also make a change in the way we *distribute* the gifts. Because we feel that we lack the expertise and the 'volunteer-power' to make sure that gifts get into the hands of those that need them most, we will not be inviting folks from the community to visit Calvary to pick-up gifts. Instead, all the items that we collect will be given to the Mary Sue Safe Haven Shelter for Domestic Abuse and to The Shepherd's House so that the gifts can minister to the children who come to these facilities throughout the year ahead.

We look forward to sharing in this beautiful Christmas tradition. Please give prayerfully and generously so that our congregation can continue to share the love of Christ with our community.



Bring your unwrapped gifts to church, beginning December 4, 2011.

Special time of collection at the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 18, 2011.

Gifts will minister to children through The Shepherd's House and Mary Sue Safe Haven.

Deacons of the Week:

November 20 Sylvia Gentry (710-0727)

November 27 Norris Hodge (786-7594)

Deacon Good Shepherds:

November 20 Brent Hull (789-7992) Benny Lisk (789-8852)

November 27 Randy Gentry (710-3066) Marvin Beasley (786-5639)

First Care Teams:

November 20 Guy & Mary Sparger (786-6906)

November 27 Daylon & Carolyn Greene (786-1426)

Church Statistics

| Budget Year 11/13/2011 | Budget to Date | Receipts to date | Expenditures to date | Receipts minus Expenditures |
|---|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General | \$58,707.25 | \$54,894.16 | \$33,423.22 | \$21,470.94 |
| Debt Retirement | \$1,584.87 | \$2,902.09 | \$0.94 | \$2,901.15 |
| Transportation | \$528.29 | \$424.08 | \$13.60 | \$410.48 |
| Debt Reduction Funds Available | | \$22,782.76 | | |
| Loan Balance as of 11/1/2011 | | \$46,406.73 | | |
| WEEKLY RECEIPTS | | 11/6 | 11/13 | |
| Operating Income | | \$9,837.50 | \$7,040.70 | |
| Debt Retirement | | \$1,206.00 | \$174.00 | |
| Transportation | | \$79.00 | \$4.00 | |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE | | | | |
| SS Enrollment | | 517 | 517 | |
| JOY Home Bound Ministry | | 20 | 20 | |
| Bible Study | | 207 | 204 | |
| Uplift Worship | | 91 | 93 | |
| 10:55 AM Worship | | 184 | 139 | |
| Total Worship | | 275 | 232 | |



Calendar of Events

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Sunday, November 20</u> | <u>Sunday, November 27</u> |
| 8:30 AM Uplift | 8:30 AM Uplift |
| 9:45 AM Sunday School | 9:45 AM Sunday School |
| 10:55 AM Traditional Worship | 10:55 AM Traditional Worship |
| 4:00 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal | 4:00 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal |
| 5:00 PM Business Meeting | <u>Monday, November 28</u> |
| 5:00 PM Youth Bowling | 6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg |
| <u>Tuesday, November 22</u> | <u>Tuesday, November 29</u> |
| Medical Ministry | J.O.Y. to Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre |
| <u>Wednesday, November 23</u> | <u>Wednesday, November 30</u> |
| No Wednesday Night Activities | 5:30 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal |
| <u>Thursday, November 24</u> | 6:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal |
| Thanksgiving Day | 6:30 PM Wednesday Night SS |
| <u>Friday, November 25</u> | 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal |
| Office Closed | <u>Thursday, December 1</u> |
| | 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting |
| | 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice |



Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Toast, NC
Permit #1

Return Service
Requested

Calvary Baptist Church
314 South Franklin Road
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

*...striving to glorify God by being a
Christ-centered church through
worship, discipleship, missions and
ministry.*

The Herald is published the first and third Fridays.

Ministers..... Our Church Family
Pastor Rev. Alex Martin
(e-mail—pastoralex@calvarybcmtairy.org)


Minister of Music Rev. Stephen Farrar
(email—steve@calvarybcmtairy.org)

Administrative Assistant..... Billie Doyle
(email—billie@calvarybcmtairy.org)

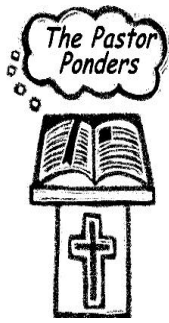
Part-time Office Assistant..... Ann Richardson
(email—ann@calvarybcmtairy.org)

Organist..... Carolyn Greene
Pianist..... Jean Williamson
Sound Engineers Phillip Hiatt, Danny Lineberry
Custodian Carlos Delfin

The Shepherd's House is in need of these items:
Trash Bags Lysol Cleaning Products Bleach
You may drop off items at 227 Rockford Street. Mount Airy



| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Helpful Reminders | November 20 | November 27 |
| Nursery Workers | Uplift | Uplift |
| | November 20 | November 27 |
| Bed Babies—4 years | Mike & Carol Lowe | Randy & Karen Beasley |
| Children's Church | TBA | TBA |
| | Traditional | Traditional |
| Bed Babies /Toddlers | Brent & Anita Hull | Nancy Cockerham, Janet McPherson |
| 2 - 4 Year Olds | Sandra Carico, Pat Smith | Pauline Ransdell, Teresa, Windham Martin |
| Children's Church | Debbie Howlett, Libby Marion | Mary Jane Shelton |



The Pastor Ponders: Where Are the Nine?

Luke 17 records an encounter that invites us to consider the impact of thanksgiving in our lives. As Jesus travels to Jerusalem, a group of ten lepers calls out to him, begging for mercy. Jesus instructs the lepers to go and show themselves to the priests, and the Bible reports that “as they went, they were made clean.” One leper—when he realizes what has happened—goes back, throws himself at Jesus feet and thanks him. This prompts Jesus to ask, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?”

How often are we among the nine? How often do we receive God’s goodness in all its forms, but fail to pause long enough to give thanks? Is there a lack of gratitude in us? Or, perhaps, is the real-life outworking of thanks a little more complicated than that?

The Lutheran pastor and writer Martin Bell offers a thought-provoking reflection on this gospel story in his book *The Way of the Wolf* (Seabury Press, 1968). Bell ventures to guess what might have been going on in the hearts and minds of those other lepers. What kept them from returning to give thanks? Among his musings, Bell speculates...

- “One was frightened...he didn’t understand what had happened...so he looked for a place to hide.”
- “A second was offended because he had not been required to do something difficult before he could be healed. He had not earned his reward. His motto was ‘You get what you pay for.’ And so Jesus offended him.”
- “The fourth leper did not return because—in his joy—he forgot. That’s all. He was so happy that he forgot.”
- “The sixth leper was a woman—a mother who had been separated from her family for 11 years because of her leprosy. She did not return to give thanks because she was hurrying home.”
- “The seventh just didn’t believe that Jesus had anything to do with the cleansing. He knew that healing had taken place, but he certainly didn’t believe in magic and miracles. There was a perfectly intelligible explanation for what had happened, but it didn’t have anything to do with Jesus.”

After inviting us to consider the circumstances of all nine lepers who did not return, Bell offers this summary: “What then shall I say? That it is good to give thanks? Yes. That it is understandable *not* to give thanks? Yes. That God does not heal people and then stand around waiting for us to say thank you and then get angry and have his feelings hurt if we don’t? Yes, that’s true.”

In the end, you see, we serve a God whose glory doesn’t depend on us. I have no doubt that God desires to be thanked for all His goodness. Who doesn’t? But God is not so petty as to stomp away mad when we come up short in the gratitude department. After all, Luke gives us no reason to think that the cleansing of those nine lepers was taken away just because they failed to return and give thanks.

But Luke’s gospel does give us a profound insight into the impact of gratitude on us. To the leper who does return, Jesus says, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well” (Luke 17:19). The word translated “well” here can just as accurately be translated as “saved” or “whole.” In other words, it is only through gratitude that God’s salvation is made complete in us. Ten lepers receive healing. But only one receives what God *wants* to give; namely, the wholeness that comes through having a relationship with God in which we are thankful for that healing.

In this season of thanksgiving, I pray that we’ll make time in our lives and room in our hearts to be grateful—grateful to God, grateful to each other, and grateful to all those who support and encourage us. Because when we do, we, too, will experience the salvation and wholeness that God longs to give.

Alex L. Martin

Prayer Concerns

The following people have been added to our prayer concern list since our last newsletter:

Kim Bowman, co-worker of Keith Doyle; **Barbara Cain**, Vernell Goins' sister; **Laken Cheek**, member of our community; **Blanche Davis**; **Mike Doby**; **Ray Goins**; **Kester Jarrell**, Will Jarrell's father; **Norma Jarrell**, cousin-in-law of Margaret Smith; **Chuck Johnson**, Vera Forrest's son-in-law; **Fannie Leonard**; **Bill Nowlin**; **Steve Page**, Sandra Byrd's nephew; **Joanie & Austin Riggs**

Remember the Bereaved

The Family of Ruth Richardson in her death, Chris Dotson's aunt

Recent Contributions



In honor of William and Geraldine Wagoner's 65th Wedding Anniversary by their children

In memory of Kenneth B. White
by the children of William and Geraldine Wagoner:
Barbara & family, Debbie & family and Brian & family

In memory of Burlon Gause
by J. A. and Claudia Bryant

In memory of Daylon Lee Moser by
Dalton and Joan Cates
Carol Cates Wensel
Mark and Meg Cates
Jesse and Kim Cates

Your Input Is Needed

Earlier this fall, our church started an experiment with projecting hymn lyrics and scripture passages during our 11 o'clock worship service. At the time, this move was requested by members who had difficulty holding and/or seeing the hymnal. However, now that we've used projection for several weeks, the deacons would like to get some feedback from the members of the church. *What are your impressions of this practice? In what ways does it add to your worship and in what ways does it distract from your worship? Are there ways that the use of projection could be enhanced? Would you like to see the use of projection in our 11 o'clock service continue?* Please write down your comments and send them to David Stone (dstone001@centurylink.net).

T H A N K S G I V I N G

The Co-Ed 1 Sunday School class is organizing the annual Thanksgiving Meal for senior adult and shut-in members of Calvary Baptist. Your participation would be appreciated.

First, we need your *financial* participation to help cover the costs associated with the meal. If donations exceed our needs, any remainder will be given to support the community Thanksgiving meal at First Baptist Church.

In addition, we need your *culinary* participation to help provide pies for the meal. Pies can be brought to the church and placed in the fellowship hall refrigerator between Sunday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 22nd.

Finally, we need your *labor* participation to help prepare meals and (even more) to make deliveries. Meal preparation will take place on Tuesday, November 22nd at 2:30 in the afternoon, and meal deliveries will begin around 4 PM.



In recent years, social networking has become somewhat of a huge phenomenon with the number of people involved. One way that people use this tool is to communicate information to their followers. While Facebook is probably the most well known and widely used, there is another social network used by some called "Twitter". Twitter is somewhat different from Facebook and other social networks in that each "tweet" (message) that a user posts is limited to 140 characters. Some may think 140 characters is adequate to convey most any message, but try to communicate and explain something to someone with only 140 characters to work with. In the world of education, some teachers are using Twitter to have their students explain or comment on something they have read. It can be an interesting challenge in some cases.

If we are limited to 140 characters, what can we say about God and what he does for us? The above verse may be one of the most memorized verses in the Bible and of course says a lot about what God has done for us. When I came up with the idea for this article, I thought of that verse to use and wanted to use a verse with under 140 characters. Of course, to make my point, if it were more than 140 characters, I would have to find another applicable verse. I took that verse directly from a Biblical website that I like to use (www.biblegateway.com) so I would not have to type it. I did not change any characters in the text and the text along with the reference, John 3:16 is exactly 140 characters.

With 140 characters, a lot can be said. With God, a lot can be done.

Bob McPherson
Sunday School Director

Calvary's next blood drive is January 15, 2012, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. The cut-off date to donate blood and be eligible to give at our drive is November 20. Any group that would like to help sponsor the January blood drive may contact Ashley Mills at 403-1770 or at ahmills11@yahoo.com.



Holiday poinsettias may be publicly displayed at the church in memory or in honor of a loved one during the Christmas season. The poinsettias, which are \$10 each, will be placed in the sanctuary on December 4th. If you are interested in buying one or more poinsettias, use the order envelopes located in each of the information centers.

IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND JOY
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Kathryn Paige Clifton

AND

Marlin James Mabe



TOGETHER WITH THEIR PARENTS
INVITE YOU TO WITNESS THEIR VOWS
AS THEY BEGIN THEIR JOYFUL JOURNEY
ON SATURDAY, THE TENTH OF DECEMBER
TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN
AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY
OLD NORTH STATE WINERY
308 NORTH MAIN STREET