



HERALD

Calvary Baptist Church

314 South Franklin Road

Mt. Airy, NC 27030

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Tapestry of Light

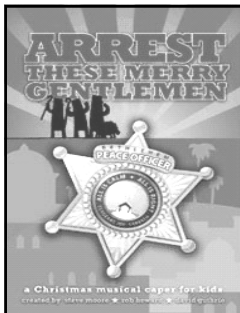
A Celtic Christmas Celebration

By Joseph M. Martin



Come and join us on
Sunday, December 18
at **10:55 A.M.**

as the Adult Choir leads us through traditional carols drawn from the British Isles (Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England), and scripture readings that celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to send us the light of Christ.



Join us for the Children's Musical Performance

Arrest These Merry Gentleman

Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 PM

Deacons of the Week:

December 4 Brent Hull (789-7992)

December 11 Margaret Layman (786-8859)

Deacon Good Shepherds:

December 4 Sylvia Gentry (710-0727) Mike Francis (786-9704)

December 11 Sam Critz ((341-8248) Jim Byrd (789-1763)

First Care Teams:

December 4 Phil & Sherry Hiatt (320-2622)

December 11 Donna Keck (786-8507) Earl Varney (789-2249)

Church Statistics

Budget Year as of	Receipts to	Expenditures to	Receipts minus	
11/27/2011	Budget to Date	date	Expenditures	
General	\$75,480.75	\$70,450.08	\$52,329.07	\$18,121.01
Debt Retirement	\$2,037.69	\$3,704.09	\$329.02	\$3,375.07
Transportation	\$679.23	\$462.08	\$13.60	\$448.48
Debt Reduction Funds Available	\$23,584.76			
Loan Balance as of 11/1/2011	\$46,406.72			

WEEKLY RECEIPTS	11/20	11/27
Operating Income	\$7,323.57	\$8,232.35
Debt Retirement	\$154.00	\$648.00
Transportation	\$29.00	\$9.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE		
SS Enrollment	517	517
JOY Home Bound Ministry	20	20
Bible Study	205	198
Uplift Worship	80	89
10:55 AM Worship	210	179
Total Worship	290	268



Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 4

- 8:30 AM Uplift
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:55 AM Traditional Worship
- 4:00 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal
- 5:30 PM Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 6

- 8:30 AM Women In Mission—Soup Day
- 6:15 PM Grief Share

Wednesday, December 7

- 12:00 PM J.O.Y. Luncheon
- 6:30 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal
- 6:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night SS
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

- 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice

Sunday, December 11

- 8:30 AM Uplift
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 10:55 AM Traditional Worship
- 4:00 PM Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal
- 4:00 PM Church Council Meeting
- 5:30 PM Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 13

- 6:30 PM B.Y.W. Cookie Stomp

Wednesday, December 14

- 4:00 PM Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal
- 6:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night SS
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

- 5:00 PM Friends Feeding Friends
- 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice

Saturday, December 17

- 10:00 PM Choir Dress Rehearsal
- 2:00 PM Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal



Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Toast, NC
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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



Nursery Workers	Uplift	Uplift
	December 4	December 11
Bed Babies—4 years	Craig & Buffy Inscore	Rachel Harris, Jill Cawley
Children's Church	TBA	TBA
	Traditional	Traditional
Bed Babies /Toddlers	Sandra Byrd, Donna Keck	Janet McPherson, Thelma Shelton
2 - 4 Year Olds	Tony & Deena Martin	Julie Warren, JoAnn Surratt
Children's Church	Donna Keck	Ashley Mills, Stephanie Hawks



My Merry (and Ambivalent) Christmas

Like a lot of folks, I enjoy Christmas about as much as any time of the year. Many of my favorite songs are Christmas carols. Since I attended college in Williamsburg, Virginia, I've got a soft spot in my heart for colorful Christmas decorations and the warm flicker of glowing candles. And even though I might lament the commercialization of the season, giving and receiving gifts is still a lot of fun.

But having said all that, I also find that my typical observance of Christmas leaves some points of discomfort in my heart. For all their beauty and familiarity, I know that many of my favorite carols present a highly sanitized view of the holiday -- all glory and peace and a beautiful babe in a manger, with very little of the agony and struggle of being a poor, unwed mother giving birth in a stinking animal barn. While all the decorations might be a completely appropriate way to celebrate the joy of a Savior's birth, I can't help but wonder if that same Savior might prefer that we focus more on being lights than on stringing them. And as for the gifts...well, ignoring completely the issue of "seasonal commercialization," I simply find that more and more these days, I struggle to "find the perfect gift" for people who - in truth - don't need anything (which reminds me, of course, that as much as I like receiving gifts, I don't need anything, either).

Perhaps my misgivings about the season are captured in the title of a book by Pastor Mike Slaughter: *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*. In the book, Slaughter comments, "At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of the Messiah who was born not only to die sacrificially for us but also to show us how to live sacrificially...Most folks would rather have a holly, jolly Christmas than to give themselves as a 'womb' for an honest-to-God Christmas miracle."

How would the Jesus who we meet in the gospels want us to celebrate His birthday? With songs and decorations and presents? Sure. But perhaps even more with moments of stillness and prayer and waiting on God. Perhaps even more with deeds of compassion and forgiveness and reconciliation. Perhaps most of all with hearts that aren't looking back to see the Child in the manger, but are looking around to see this same Savior at work in the world, so that we can join Him there.

I pray that all of you will have a very Merry Christmas. But amid the merriment, let's remember: Christmas is not our birthday. May our celebration bring true honor to the One whose birthday it is.

Pastor Alex





Prayer Concerns

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

Sylvia Cornett, *Sandra Dunbar's sister*; **Claude King**; **Mary Lou Lawson**, *grandmother of Julie Gurley's friend*; **Bill Nowlin**; **Joan Storie**, *church member of Chris Dotson*; **Don Thompson**

Remember the Bereaved

The Family of Norma Ella Hill Jarrell in her death, *cousin of Kester & Rachel Jarrell and Norris & Faye Jarrell*

Note of Thanks

Dear Calvary Baptist Congregation,

This time of year is such an appropriate time for a thank you note! This Thanksgiving, we are so thankful for how our parents are loved by their church. Thank you for expressing this through all your special ways with phone calls, cards, visits, meals, & prayers during mom's recent surgery and recovery. Not only have they been blessed, but so have we!

Love,

Sara Doss and Mary Pope



Connect with Calvary through "One Call Now"

Hopefully, you have received (or will soon receive) a letter explaining our church's recent decision to provide better communication with our members through a phone, email and text messaging service called "One Call Now." In order to help us make the most of this tool in the most cost effective way, we are asking each family at Calvary to provide us with the single, best telephone number for us to call with updates on the life of our church. Response cards that allow you to share this information were mailed with the letter, but these cards are also available in the church office, in Sunday School class boxes, and in the worship bulletin on December 4th. (The card also allows you to share email addresses and alternate phone numbers, and to let us know if you'd like to receive updates via text message.) If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office. Please complete a card as soon as possible and return it to us by bringing it to the office, placing it in the offering plate, or by mailing it. If you choose to mail the card, please affix a 29 cent stamp.

The J.O.Y. Group will meet December 7 at noon. Elizabeth Folger and Carolyn Greene will present the program. Please join us; bring a guest, a dish, and a dollar. Start the Christmas season with joy and fellowship.



Christmas
Tree
Gifts

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

•Special gift collection at the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 18, 2011.

•All gifts will minister to children through The Shepherd's House and Blue Ridge HOPE (shelter of domestic abuse).

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





A
Note from the
Minister of
Music

Dear church family,

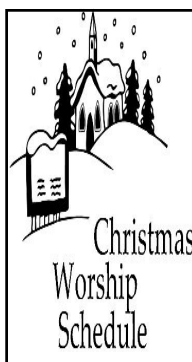
Christmas is now drawing upon us, and I can't wait for you to experience the musical that the adult choir has prepared for us. As you saw on the front page, *Tapestry of Light* is a musical with carol arrangements that focuses our attention on the "light" of Christ's coming, and I hope you have made plans to join us on Sunday morning. In the evening, we get to look forward to the children's musical, *Arrest Those Merry Gentlemen*, which has fun, upbeat music with a wonderful message of how we need to seek the Christ child for ourselves. This is a family-oriented event that you simply won't want to miss!

Finally, the VOCE choral group, which you might have had a chance to hear during the October associational meeting, is presenting a Christmas concert at Central United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 4, at 4:00 P.M. The choir will present a variety of music that ranges from beautiful sacred Christmas classics to heart-warming songs that will get you in the spirit. If you would like to get an advance ticket (\$10 each), you can get one from either me or Mark Merritt, who directs the ensemble.

Peace in Christ,
Stephen Farrar

Carol of the Month

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written in 1868 by Phillips Brooks, a dynamic preacher and writer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, that was widely known by church-goers of his day as the "Prince of the Pulpit." The carol, which was written for a children's Sunday School Christmas program at Brooks' church, was inspired by a trip that Brooks took to the Holy Land several years before, and where he spent a Christmas Eve worshipping at the Nativity Church in Bethlehem. The music was written by Lewis Redner, the organist and Sunday School superintendent at Brooks' church who "insisted that the tune was a gift from heaven" when "he suddenly awakened from his sleep and quickly composed it" the night before the program (*from "101 Hymns Stories" by Kenneth W. Osbeck*). The carol, which was published in 1874, has since become one of the standard Christmas carols sung by churches all around the world during the holiday season.



Sunday, December 18—No Uplift Service
Sunday School—9:45 AM
Choir Cantata—10:55 AM
Children's Musical—6:00 PM

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 25—No Uplift Service
No Sunday School
Worship Service—10:55 AM