



Calvary Baptist Church Weekly Newsletter

November 8, 2017

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A Word from the pastor

Corey Fields

I cannot imagine what our brothers and sisters in Sutherland Springs are going through. I'm almost stunned to silence by how often this happens, and how unbelievably tragic this is for this small community and small church. No one deserves to have to live through this kind of carnage and tragedy.

There are prayers of grief, prayers of peace, and prayers of justice to be had for this event and its victims. There are also conversations to be had about gun violence that started long before this and will continue long after. But the question you may be asking after a tragedy like this is, "What about our church? Can it happen here? What should we do? How can we prevent this?"

As your pastor, I struggle with exactly what a good, reasonable, prudent, and theologically sound response looks like. It is extremely difficult to find a response that is all of those things.

I want to say, first of all, that I as your pastor intend to work with church leaders and consult other resources to do our due diligence. I have some experience with church risk management. Prudence, responsibility, and forethought are all good things and I think, on the one hand, tragedies like the one this week can and should raise our consciousness, bringing some things off the back burner (which, admittedly, is where risk management efforts have been for me in my first year here). I plan to consult with the Trustees, our insurance company, denominational resources, local police, etc.

So I want to start by assuring you that this tragedy and what it means for our church will not be a topic that I will ignore. But, for now, I also want to share that, however any church decides to respond to such things, the response must avoid three major pitfalls:

First, a church response should not be out of proportion to the likelihood of a mass shooting compared to other security threats. A tragedy can
(continued on next page)

(A Word from the pastor, continued)

make us lose perspective, at least temporarily. Despite the horror that Sutherland Springs just faced, a shooter remains one of the least likely security events that any one given church will face. Yes, mass shootings are on the rise, and yes, these statistics very tragically don't matter for the church in Sutherland Springs (or Emanuel AME Church in Charleston). But these horrible events don't somehow make us any more vulnerable than we've always been; it's just that we are more frightened or more aware of this certain prospect. I will encourage our conversations to focus around a much broader – and much more needed – look at risk management. The kinds of security events that more often do a church in are things like inadequate child supervision, mishandling money, and sexual misconduct, to name three of the most



common. Such things are obviously quite different from a shooting event, but all fall under being “as wise as serpents, and as innocent as doves.”

Second, a church response should not include any false promise from me that I can somehow keep you safe. A church can and should ask questions about safety and security. But there's another uncomfortable truth at work here also: we cannot fully protect ourselves from someone who would do us harm. We do not live in a safe world. Some of the things to which we subject ourselves stem from the myth of security (like how you can bring 3 oz of liquid on a airplane but not 4). Someone intent on doing harm can usually find a way to do so, even against people who are highly trained. This is not a reason to throw up our hands and do nothing, but it's an important truth to acknowledge.

Lastly, a church response cannot be based on fear. There's a reason that Kirkegaard called fear “the psychological condition that precedes sin.” In his book *Fearless*, Max Lucado wrote that fear produces “spiritual amnesia,” making us jettison what we proclaim to be true and good otherwise. Our perceived loss of control makes us “grab for a component of life we can manage,” he writes. “The more insecure we feel, the meaner we become.”

The only time fear is mentioned in a positive light in the Bible is when it is used to refer to reverence for God. The command, “Fear God” or the adjective “God-fearing” are common in the Bible, used roughly 300 times throughout its pages. Any

other mention of fear is negative. Around 110 times, biblical texts talk about not being afraid. “Do not be afraid,” God says to Abraham on several occasions. “Do not be afraid,” God says to the Israelites through Moses. “Do not be afraid,” the angel said to Mary and Joseph when they received the news. Interestingly, all of these characters were in very fearful situations. They had every reason to be afraid. The point, however, is that fear could have blinded them to God's will for their lives, if they allowed it to grip them. They weren't told to reject fear because nothing could happen; they were told to reject fear because of what it does to us.



A disrupted and fearful life is the very goal of terrorism. We are told not to have that spirit (2 Timothy 1:7). “Perfect love drives out fear,” 1 John 4:18 tells us. This is so important because fear makes us forget who we are. It has happened to our country since 9/11; we cannot let it happen in our churches. As we grieve for those lost in Sutherland Springs we must acknowledge the grief, the sorrow, and yes even the fear that we all certainly feel, but we must not live by it, and we must not lead by it. One of my colleagues said on Facebook:

“The only way to [fully] protect ourselves is to cease being who we are called to be: welcomers of the stranger, the foreigner, the broken; the visible expression of the love of God.”

Again, prudence, responsibility, and forethought are all good things and nothing I have said here should be taken to mean that we shall only be innocent doves and not wise serpents. I also understand that my perspective is very limited, which is why it's important to me to bring many different voices to the table. But as we prayerfully consider our own context, I return first to my role as a steward of Christ's Church, making sure that, in the midst of a violent world, she does not forget who she is.

Church Members

Members and Friends at Home



Each week a member or friend of the church at home will be highlighted. Greeting cards are always appreciated.

Charles and Nell Deibert
524 Hollingsworth Ave.
Elkton, MD 21921
410-392-4093



They are long time members of Calvary until the past few years. Nell was active in the Women's Group and both participated in many programs. Their daughter, Leslie, is their primary caregiver and they do appreciate cards from the Calvary family.



NOVEMBER

1	Amber Hickman Taylor	16	Amber Walker
1	Tina Otto	17	Mira Hong
6	Ian Cahill	18	Travis Hunter
7	Michael Carter	18	Cam Dunson
8	Betty Kidwell	18	Nadine Phillips
9	Regina Moore	19	Amy Kline
10	Everett Ramer	20	Joyce Hoover
10	Jason Stoehr	21	Hunter Houtz
11	Jill Widdoes	22	Jovan McDonald
11	Kaitlynn Kline	25	Lois Stoehr
11	Libby Dowell	26	Rochelle McDonald
12	John M. Duffy IV	26	Nicholas Chadick
15	Isabel Companiony	26	Tyler Josephson
15	Jean McWatters	30	Kim Prinski





10 years of "a hand up, not a hand out"

The Newark Empowerment Center and Code Purple will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Thursday, November 16, at 6:30 PM in the Calvary Fellowship Hall. The dinner is covered dish. Bring anything you like. Don't have anything? Come anyway. All who have participated with NEC or helped with Code Purple are invited. This will be an evening of conversation and celebration.

ATTENTION: ALL CALVARY WOMEN

Our next ABWM meeting will be on Saturday, November 11 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Our program is on World Day of Prayer by Jean Dunson. The topic is Missionaries in Africa. She has an exciting program planned and you won't want to miss it. Come and join us for good fellowship, good food, and our special program.



Ditty Boxes: Assembly Night Wed., Nov. 15

Please be sure to deliver donations to the church by THIS SUNDAY Nov. 12 in order for them to be packed into the shoeboxes

Also, remember to watch the rocket launch from Wallops Island at 7:37am on November 11; that huge rocket comes in through our Port of Wilmington!



Look for a sign-up sheet on the church welcome desk. Suggested items for a Ditty box:

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Gum/candy
- Pens/stationery
- Chapstick
- Shampoo
- Cough drops

- Comb
- Sewing kit
- Playing cards
- Hand lotion
- Razors
- Knitted hat and scarf

Monthly Financial Statement

11/8/2017

Net Operating Gain \$721

Total Income	
	Oct-17
General Fund Income	\$25,197.59
	-

Total Expenses	
	Oct-17
Monthly Expenses	\$24,476.35
	-

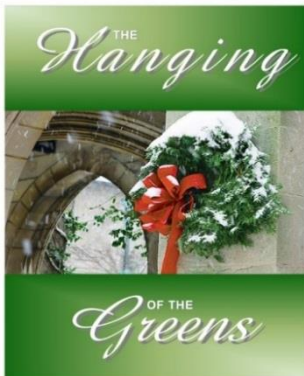
News and Events



Join the "Calvary Clompers" at the Reindeer Run & Romp 5K to benefit Delaware Special Olympics on Friday, December 1 at 7:00pm. We have a Santa - we just need some elves and reindeer to go along! Wear a reindeer or elf costume or your ugly Christmas sweater. Register to join Calvary's team here:

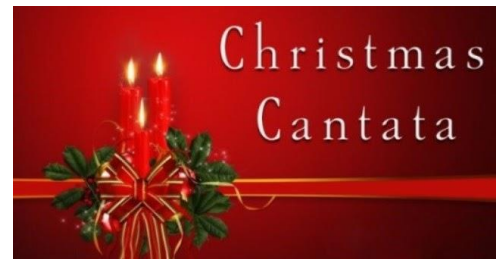
<https://give.classy.org/calvaryclompers>

Help us reach out to those who "Duck In." On Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30 pm, we invite people to "duck in" on our front lawn for free refreshments, a friendly hello, and a listening ear. Consistency will be key to making it so we can reach people and gain familiarity. If you would like to participate in this, perhaps once a month, let Tom Parkins or Pastor Corey know.



Hanging of the Greens followed by a simple soup luncheon Saturday, December 2, 10am - 12noon
Come help us decorate the church for Advent and Christmas!

The cool, crisp fall weather is now upon us, which means the choir will be rehearsing and preparing the Christmas Cantata for the Advent season. If you are interested in being a part of our musical group, please join us Wednesdays at 8 PM for cantata rehearsal in the sanctuary. Feel free to consult the bulletin or contact our choir director, Sarah Gober, for any details.



Come sing with us, and bring a friend!

Dear Beloved Faith Community,

Would you please pray for us during the next 10-12 days as we drive and visit our partners in Southern Baja, Mexico. We hope to head to the border Tuesday or Wednesday depending on a few details that are still being arranged. We will cross the border at Tecate, and from there drive to La Paz which is almost 1000 miles south of San Diego.



Here is how you can specifically pray:

1. For safe travel on the road there and back, not only with our vehicle, but also that we would not be targeted by any dangerous individuals.
2. For conversations with our Baptist partners as we reconnect and discuss ministry in this region of Mexico. How can we support them, and plan for future retreats? How can we continue to provide theological training for leaders?
3. For conversations with people at Crossroads, the English-speaking ministry that began under our leadership. We will be preaching there on Sunday and looking for opportunities to encourage and support this mission outpost.
4. For Joyce's health. This will be her first international trip since her health crisis began two years ago. It's a test run for her, and if all goes well, then she can plan to join David on more trips next year.
5. For discernment as we sort through a storage unit of belongings that we left in La Paz. What to keep, what to sell, what to give away? We're hoping we can use a local shipping company to send some items to the border, but are not sure if that will work out yet or not. If not, then we will have to downsize even more dramatically.
6. For an openness of heart and mind for whatever people and opportunities God places in our path. That we might listen and respond with the authentic, loving presence of Jesus.

Thank you for your prayers!

Joyce and David Reed

Regional Missionaries in Ibero-America & the Caribbean



Calendar

November

Wed. 8	6:00pm 6:45pm 8:00pm	Dinner (Hot Dogs) Small groups Choir rehearsal
Fri. 10	7:00pm	Veterans Day observed, office closed
Sat. 11	9:30am	YG Fall All-Nighter
Sun. 12	12:00pm 12:00pm 12:00pm	American Baptist Women Diaconate Christian Ed board Trustees
Tues. 14	1:30pm	"Duck In"
Wed. 15	6:00pm 6:45pm 8:00pm	Dinner (Chili) Small groups Choir rehearsal
Thur. 16	9:00am 6:30pm	Hope Dining Room Newark Empowerment Center 10th Anniversary Celebration
Sun. 19	12:00pm 7:00pm	Calvary Fellowship Hall Ingathering Sunday Thanksgiving meal Search committee
Tues. 21	7:30pm	Interfaith Thanksgiving service, St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Wed. 22		Office Closed
Thurs. 23		Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day
Fri. 24	12:00pm	Office Closed Thanksgiving Leftover Feast (for the homeless and needy)
Tues. 28	1:30pm 7:00pm	"Duck In" Vision Team
Wed. 29	6:00pm 6:45pm 8:00pm	Dinner (Hot Roast Beef Sandwiches) Small groups Choir rehearsal

December

Fri. 1	7:00pm	Reindeer Run & Romp, Academy St. and Delaware Ave.
Sat. 2	10:00am	Hanging of the Greens & Soup Luncheon
Tues. 5	1:30pm 6:30pm	"Duck In" Finance Committee
Wed. 6	6:00pm 6:45pm 8:00pm	Dinner (Beef Stew) Small groups Choir rehearsal
Thurs. 7	12:00pm	Office Closes at Noon
Fri. 8		Office Closed
Sat. 9	7:00pm 9:30am 2:00pm	Youth Group Ice Skating American Baptist Women Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon Open House at the Fields', 2727 Barnsley Rd., Wilm., DE 19808
Sun. 10	12:00pm	Diaconate
Tues. 12	12:00pm 1:30pm	Christian Ed board "Duck In"



Note: There will be no newsletter the week of Thanksgiving.