



Calvary Baptist Church Weekly Newsletter

December 20, 2017

A Word from the pastor

Corey Fields

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Hope, peace, joy and love are more than just words. They're God's very desire for us. Their opposites are despair, strife, sorrow, and hate. At least at some points in our lives, such things can be very easy to slip into, and in the midst of them, it's easy to lose our vision and think to ourselves that it will always be this way.

This is all a part of life, of course, as the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us. Nevertheless, I think we are called to be ambassadors of hope, peace, joy and love in today's world, and that God has given us tools to stoke these flames in everyday life.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we talked about hope, and I think we can stoke that flame by:

- Being stubborn about hope even when it feels like there isn't hope
- Dreaming God-sized dreams for our lives and this world
- Looking for "God-sightings" like we talk about in Vacation Bible School. If we wrote them down for a while and then looked back at them, we might be surprised "what the Lord hath done."
- Being someone else's hope.
- Remembering that our hope is not in people or circumstances, but what God is doing in spite of them.

Next was peace, and boy could our world use a lot more of that. I briefly talked about "shalom," the Hebrew word for peace, and how it actually means wholeness, completeness, and reconciliation. So with that in mind, perhaps we can stoke the flame of peace by:

- Remembering that peacemaking is first God's work, and it's something we don't have the power to do ourselves but get to join in on
- Doing our part to be a person of peace. Remember, we can't control others.
- Taking that step to reconcile a relationship or confess a grudge.



Last Sunday, when we talked about joy, I confessed my pet peeve about people making others feel like they have to smile or feel a way they don't feel. Joy goes much deeper than our facial expressions or emotions. It's possible to have joy in sadness. I think we can stoke the flame of joy by:

- Not taking life at face value. There's always something deeper going on.
- Practicing gratitude and treating life for the gift that it is
- Slowing down and being present in the moment
- Making time for that activity or person that brings us joy. One of those things for me personally is listening to or singing Christmas music. What's yours?

Join us this coming Sunday morning when we seek to stoke the flame of love. And then, of course, I hope you'll join us that evening when we exit the season of "waiting," light the Christ candle, and celebrate the birth of Jesus together. Silent communion is at 6pm and the candlelight service is at 7pm.

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.

Frank Meehan
19 Winsome Way
Newark, DE 19702
302-737-7067



Frank Meehan and his late wife, Colleen, began attending Calvary many years ago when their son Tom had joined our chancel choir. Frank was always a very faithful member, but quietly staying in the background. Tom left our church a long time ago, but Frank continued to attend. In talking with Tom I learned Frank suffers from severe dementia and Alzheimer's disease. We do miss him in his favorite pew on Sundays, but continue to keep Frank in our prayers, along with Tom who is the sole caregiver for him.



DECEMBER

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| 3 | Tara Walker | 12 | Sarah (Missy) Small |
| 3 | Sophia Lim | 13 | Robin Elliott |
| 4 | Pauline Moulton | 18 | Faith Nicole Boothe |
| 5 | Rose Barton | 19 | Pete Widdoes |
| 5 | Daniel Smith Jr. | 23 | Lilian Josephson |
| 6 | Bill John | 24 | Martha Hollomon |
| 7 | Ruth Dowell | 24 | Carol S. Kidwell |
| 7 | Ian Chadick | 26 | Andrew Dowell |
| 7 | Ken Walker | 27 | Charles Deibert |
| 9 | Carmen Companiony | 27 | Kaitlin E. Walker |
| 11 | Alan Williamson | 29 | Audrey C. Hopkins |
| 11 | Tamela McMurray | 29 | Dolores Hunt |
| | | 30 | Jerry Reynolds |

Light in the midst of darkness: A Christmas letter from Puerto Rico

From Josué Gómez-Menéndez

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in every way it could. The biggest natural disaster to tear over our tropical island in many decades, the storm took so much from us.

But it also showed us that it's good to be part of a family—a great family of people joining with us on this journey of healing. American Baptist family is one of the gifts that Maria gave to us.

At the start of the Advent season, my family received a gift—a string of battery-operated Christmas lights—from the Rev. Judy Fackenthal, president of American Baptist Churches USA.

This is a significant detail for us because at my home, we are still without electricity. As I write this, it's now 75 days since Maria hit, and we are still using a generator with the inconvenience and limitation that this brings.

We hung the Christmas lights at the door between the living room and the terrace. Now, at night, when everything is dark, everyone sees our Christmas spirit.

Last Sunday I woke up early and prepared for a brief jog before the Sunday worship. I went to the bathroom, opened the faucet, but nothing came out!

I felt really without hope ... 75 days out from Maria's landfall and it's still like day zero. No electricity and no water. It's so frustrating. It's not fair; there is something terribly wrong.

I walked down the stairs, and suddenly I saw our Christmas lights ... and I remembered, you know, that for the last 2,000 years, there is a light showing a path for hope to those still living in darkness. For the wise man, for the ones who work in the fields, for all those who are still looking!

This holiday season, more than ever, I give God glory for the promise of light in the darkness—the darkness that still envelopes so much of my homeland, Puerto Rico.

Thank you, American Baptist family, for living this journey with us ... for sharing goods, praying, texting, calling and for your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing that help us so much. But more importantly, thank you for being part of our family.

May the blessing of light be yours, my sisters and brothers in Christ, in this holiest of seasons.

Dr. Josué D. Gómez-Menéndez, administrator of Academia Bautista de Puerto Nuevo in San Juan, is incoming president of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA.

Don't forget, if you feel led to participate in an "Advent Conspiracy" for Puerto Rico by donating to the rebuilding effort of ABHMS, make your check out to Calvary Baptist with "Puerto Rico" in the memo line.



Christmas Eve

- 10:30am Normal Sunday morning worship
(no Sunday School)
- 4:30pm "Christmas for All" registration begins
- 5:15pm "Christmas for All" dinner
- 6:00pm Silent communion
- 7:00pm Candlelight service

Christmas For All -Update-



First: Anybody can come for the Christmas Eve Feast. You don't need to be homeless or needy. Calvary members are very welcome. After all, it is Christmas for ALL. Dinner starts at 5:15PM and lasts until the food runs out.

Gifts - Most needed is \$10 Wawa or McDonalds cards. Packages of underwear are also needed.

Food - We need a couple more breakfast casseroles. These can be made a few days ahead and refrigerated. You bring them Sunday morning or Christmas Eve evening. Cases of canned soda are needed. Surprisingly we have few desserts.

Please email Tom at mrfizzix@aol.com or call 731-8193 with food donations by Friday 8 AM if you did not sign up on the paper in the narthex.

The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God's service. The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year.



Generous Congregations

We hope congregations will be inspired by the theme this year, *Generous Congregations*. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8, 'But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity'. Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Please join us in honoring God's committed servants by donating to RMMO. (*Checks made out to Calvary Baptist with RMMO in the memo line or placed in the marked envelopes in the pews.*)

Thank you for your support.

Christmas For All

"Christmas For All" is the new name for Code Purple Christmas. We hope to open up to all folks not just Code Purple Clients. Calvary will again open our doors to the homeless and hungry of Newark. The program has not changed. Doors open at 4PM Christmas Eve, Feast at 5, Worship, overnight, Christmas morning breakfast, Santa, lunch.

We need your help to make this happen. Food, gifts, serving.

Food

Dinner - Ham, turkey, beef, sides and desserts for the feast, canned sodas

Breakfast - Egg Casserole, nice pastries

Lunch - Lunch meat, rolls, individual chip bags.

Gifts \$10 gift cards for Wawa, McDonalds; insulated gloves; warm socks; handwarmers; new underwear (all sizes, all types); LED flashlights



Workers You tell me when you can come - 1 hour...4 hours...12 hours...We are grateful for any hours that you serve.

If you have something else to donate, let me know. It's probably a good chance that we can use it.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP OUT!!!

FOOD, GIFTS, HELPERS. <http://bit.ly/CalvaryChristmas>

Questions? See Santa

302-731-8193 home 302-465-2070 cell

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on

Saturday, January 6 starting at 10am.

Please come to help out - many hands make light work!



Business meeting January 7, 2018.

Two special action items: 1) 2018 budget proposal and 2) treasurer nominations

Nominating Committee Report:

Melissa Hunter and Ann Terranova are resigning as treasurer and assistant treasurer. The committee is nominating John Elliott as treasurer and Nancy Widdoes as assistant treasurer. Voting to accept this recommendation will be conducted at the quarterly business meeting scheduled for January 7, 2018.

2018 Budget

Calvary Baptist Church Proposed 2018 Budget

| | <u>2018 Budget</u> | <u>2017 Projection</u> | <u>2016 Actual</u> | <u>2015 Actual</u> | <u>2014 Actual</u> |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| PLEDGES | 310,000.00 | | | | |
| <u>GENERAL FUND: OTHER GIVING: GOOD SAM</u> | 310,000.00 | 317,174.00 | 308,241.06 | 313,737.03 | 348,613.71 |
| <u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u> | | | | | |
| Deacon - Salaries/Benefits/Taxes (NOTE 1) | 151,583.90 | 117,545.07 | 158,266.60 | 169,960.44 | 186,202.52 |
| Christian Ed - Salaries/Benefits/Taxes (NOTE 1) | 3,520.00 | 3,136.00 | 2,999.13 | 3,463.13 | 3,293.00 |
| Bank Charges | 250.00 | 426.00 | 691.20 | 155.80 | 0.00 |
| Subtotal Administrative Expenses | 155,353.90 | 121,107.07 | 161,956.93 | 173,579.37 | 189,495.52 |
| <u>TRUSTEE EXPENSES</u> | | | | | |
| Utilities | 14,400.00 | 12,708.00 | 13,402.64 | 19,098.65 | 17,186.03 |
| Insurance | 9,500.00 | 9,208.00 | 10,465.75 | 7,596.00 | 6,710.00 |
| Exterminator | 1,000.00 | 850.00 | 960.00 | 960.00 | 960.00 |
| Groundskeeping | 1,400.00 | 138.00 | 1,016.92 | 840.00 | 945.00 |
| Snow removal | 1,000.00 | 396.00 | 946.00 | 621.50 | 1,525.00 |
| Repair | 40,000.00 | 59,496.00 | 8,562.07 | 7,816.57 | 6,273.61 |
| Safety items | 4,000.00 | 1,608.00 | 1,872.52 | 977.30 | 3,103.88 |
| Janitorial supplies | 1,000.00 | 658.00 | 1,150.66 | 1,223.74 | 790.46 |
| Janitorial service | 0.00 | 6,600.00 | 7,800.00 | 7,275.00 | 6,200.00 |
| Facilities Manager | 16,800.00 | | | | |
| Furniture, Equipment | 3,000.00 | 4,227.00 | 573.63 | 2,590.48 | 0.00 |
| Subtotal Church Facility | 77,700.00 | 83,181.00 | 33,347.55 | 29,900.59 | 26,507.95 |
| Office | 8,600.00 | 8,411.00 | 8,672.57 | 8,714.39 | 8,382.43 |
| Technology | 2,250.00 | 2,593.00 | 1,744.87 | 1,128.88 | 1,139.83 |
| Fees Paid | 2,276.00 | 2,470.00 | 1,420.88 | 1,182.24 | 5,590.70 |
| Green House 225-227 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 449.21 | 6,225.53 | 5,883.53 |
| Subtotal Trustee Expenses | 105,226.00 | 109,363.00 | 59,037.72 | 66,250.28 | 64,690.47 |
| Subtotal Fixed Expenses | 260,579.90 | 230,470.07 | 220,994.65 | 239,829.65 | 254,185.99 |
| <u>MINISTRY EXPENSES</u> | | | | | |
| <u>DIACONATE</u> | | | | | |
| ABMen | 250.00 | 62.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 353.36 |
| ABWomensMinistries | 950.00 | 38.00 | 0.00 | 601.80 | 666.57 |
| Fellowship | 690.00 | 435.00 | 692.41 | 553.84 | 540.45 |
| Funerals | 700.00 | 708.00 | 143.97 | 1,453.05 | 0.00 |
| Thanksgiving Dinner | 0.00 | 0.00 | 470.68 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Wednesday night dinners | 1,700.00 | 1,484.00 | 365.69 | 2,285.08 | 1,896.76 |
| A/O fellowship events | 500.00 | 557.00 | 428.07 | 1,380.45 | 770.96 |
| Selah | 0.00 | 42.00 | 181.92 | 447.05 | 135.72 |
| Flowers | 250.00 | 95.00 | 134.00 | 350.00 | 401.25 |
| Worship supplies | 1,200.00 | 1,671.00 | 1,534.62 | 3,496.68 | 2,613.44 |
| Advent/Lent/workshops | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 428.70 | 22.97 |
| Honorarium | 800.00 | 67.00 | 1,000.00 | 850.00 | 1,720.24 |
| Pulpit Search Committee | 2,000.00 | 375.00 | 4,859.21 | 190.88 | 0.00 |
| Music supplies | 1,600.00 | 490.00 | 1,403.17 | 2,033.72 | 1,357.48 |
| Dance Worship | 0.00 | 0.00 | 85.98 | 110.95 | 286.00 |
| Board expenses & ventures | 500.00 | 838.00 | 439.91 | 577.30 | 1,011.75 |
| Conventions & conferences | 800.00 | 615.00 | 277.65 | 4,500.69 | 0.00 |
| Evangelism | 500.00 | 42.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Publicity | 1,000.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 1,298.80 | 0.00 |
| Website | 800.00 | 888.00 | 564.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 |
| Stewardship | 500.00 | 289.00 | 205.87 | 396.40 | 580.03 |
| GOOD SAM | 0.00 | 5,635.00 | | | |
| Subtotal Diaconate Ministry | 14,740.00 | 14,381.50 | 12,787.15 | 21,105.39 | 12,356.98 |

2018 Budget

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|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | | | | | |
| CE Supplies | 150.00 | 320.00 | 385.83 | 155.28 | 0.00 |
| Subtotal Young Children's Ministry | 150.00 | 320.00 | 385.83 | 155.28 | 0.00 |
| Sunday School (curr.) | 600.00 | 490.00 | 704.06 | 698.28 | 566.07 |
| Youth Group | 1,000.00 | 645.00 | 1,635.69 | 2,023.68 | 2,196.28 |
| Kids for Jesus | 170.00 | 225.00 | 112.88 | 0.00 | 118.50 |
| Leader training | 0.00 | 83.00 | 0.00 | 2,089.76 | 0.00 |
| Family events | 1,000.00 | 1,901.00 | 824.25 | 743.93 | 814.65 |
| VBS | 1,500.00 | 1,486.00 | 1,153.28 | 1,369.17 | 1,184.30 |
| Leader expenses | 1,000.00 | 549.00 | 1,368.42 | 2,089.16 | 1,662.65 |
| Visitation Ministry | 0.00 | 83.00 | 525.80 | 1,016.21 | 861.70 |
| CE Scholarships (All) | 5,000.00 | 3,315.00 | 505.00 | 1,700.63 | 778.00 |
| Subtotal Youth Regular Events | 10,270.00 | 8,777.00 | 6,829.38 | 11,710.82 | 8,182.15 |
| YOUNG AD & COLL SPECIAL | | | | | |
| YAC Events | 0.00 | 17.00 | 326.46 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Adult Regular Events | 1,800.00 | 1,335.00 | 1,924.00 | 1,362.51 | 1,843.59 |
| Resources | 1,500.00 | 986.00 | 582.81 | 1,312.52 | 320.57 |
| Subtotal Christian Education | 13,720.00 | 11,435.00 | 10,048.48 | 14,541.13 | 10,346.31 |
| MISSIONS | | | | | |
| United Missions ABCOPAD (NOTE 2) | 33,700.00 | 34,401.00 | 16,879.33 | 51,941.85 | 58,262.85 |
| Care for Kids LaPaz Mex | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Code Purple | 100.00 | 230.00 | 36.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Emmaus House | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Empowerment C. supplies | 50.00 | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 29.90 |
| Empowerment C. support | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 0.00 |
| Hope Dining Rm supplies | 2,500.00 | 2,072.00 | 1,900.56 | 2,236.46 | 2,052.43 |
| Hope Dining Rm support | 250.00 | 312.50 | 250.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| InterVarsity Ch Fshp | 100.00 | 100.00 | 50.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| Love INC NC county | 150.00 | 150.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| Meals On Wheels Newark | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Board expense & ventures | 0.00 | 222.00 | 35.02 | 1,487.97 | 2,070.00 |
| Palmer Theological Sem | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| New Expectations | 300.00 | 322.00 | 118.80 | 400.00 | 0.00 |
| Homeless Ministries | 1,000.00 | 846.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| New ventures | 1,750.00 | 295.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Missionaries Reeds Mexico | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,000.00 | 700.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Special Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 207.85 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Mission Trip | 2,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| deposits & fees | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 350.00 | 300.00 |
| Board support | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,798.31 | 1,277.45 |
| Board Initiatives | 0.00 | 673.00 | 222.13 | 16.99 | 0.00 |
| Subtotal Missions | 48,900.00 | 46,627.50 | 23,899.74 | 62,581.58 | 67,542.63 |
| Subtotal Diaconate/CE/Mission Ministry Exp | 77,360.00 | 72,444.00 | 46,735.37 | 98,228.10 | 90,245.92 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 337,939.90 | 302,914.07 | 267,730.02 | 338,057.75 | 344,431.91 |
| EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSE (NOTE 3) | -27,939.90 | 14,259.93 | 40,511.04 | -24,320.72 | 4,181.80 |

NOTE 1 - Detail is available upon request.

NOTE 2 - General Missions Support = 11% of General Income

NOTE 3 - There is a projected shortfall for 2018

% change in Pledges vs. 2017 actual -2%

% change in Expenses vs. 2017 actual 12%

Higher expenses are mostly due to adding
Associate Pastor position.

Calendar

December

| | | |
|------------------|---------|--|
| Wed. 20 | 6:00pm | Dinner (Spaghetti) |
| | 6:45pm | Small groups |
| | 8:00pm | Choir rehearsal |
| Thur. 21 | 9:00am | Hope Dining Room |
| Fri. 22-Tues. 26 | | Office closed |
| Sat. 6 | 10:00am | Taking down the Christmas decorations |
| Sun. 24 | 4:30pm | Christmas for All begins |
| | 5:15pm | Dinner |
| | 6:00pm | Silent communion |
| | 7:00pm | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service |
| Mon. 25 | | Christmas Day |
| Wed. 27 | | <i>No Wednesday night activities</i> |



January

| | | |
|----------------|---------|---|
| Mon. 1-Tues. 2 | | Office closed |
| Wed. 3 | | <i>No Wednesday night activities</i> |
| Sat. 6 | 10:00am | Take down Christmas decorations |
| Sun. 7 | 11:30am | Quarterly Business Meeting |
| Wed. 10 | 6:00pm | Dinner |
| | 6:45pm | Small groups |
| | 8:00pm | Choir rehearsal |
| Sat. 13 | 9:30am | American Baptist Women - White Cross Project |
| Sun. 14 | 12:00pm | Christian Ed board |
| Mon. 15 | | Martin Luther King Jr. Day, office closed |
| Wed. 17 | 6:00pm | Dinner |
| | 6:45pm | Small groups |
| | 8:00pm | Choir rehearsal |
| Thur. 18 | 9am-1pm | Hope Dining Room |
| Fri. 19 | 6pm-9pm | Game Night |
| Sun. 21 | 12:00pm | Trustee board |
| | 12:00pm | Mission board |
| | 12:00pm | Diaconate |
| | 7:00pm | Search committee |
| Tues. 23 | 7:00pm | Vision team |
| Wed. 24 | 6:00pm | Dinner |
| | 6:45pm | Small groups |
| | 8:00pm | Choir rehearsal |
| Fri. 26 | | Office closed |

