

The Columns



Calvary

Baptist Church

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There is an illustration that is getting passed around these days. In all likelihood you have heard it in one form or another. The story:

One day a group of villagers was working in the fields by a river. Suddenly someone noticed a baby floating downstream. A woman rushed out and rescued the baby, brought it to shore and cared for it. During the next several days, more babies were found floating downstream, and the villagers rescued them as well. But before long there was a steady stream of babies floating downstream. Soon the whole village was involved in the many tasks of rescue work: pulling these poor children out of the stream, ensuring they were properly fed, clothed, and housed, and integrating them into the life of the village. While not all the babies, now very numerous, could be saved, the villagers felt they were doing well to save as many as they did.

Before long, however, the village became exhausted with all this rescue work and even with the entire village working around the clock a meeting of the entire village was called to decide what to do. Some suggested enlisting the help of other villages. Others suggested incorporating mechanical devices that would lift the infants from the stream. A few even went so far as to suggest they simply stop fishing them out of the water completely. (After all this wasn't their doing and they had to think about themselves first.)

As the meeting began to devolve into a shouting match between all concerned, a village elder rose to his feet and began to walk towards the door. Those engaged in the debate began to notice and waning of the debates began to settle over the villagers. A single voice emerged over the dwindling din, "Where are you off to?" The Elder held his response until he was about to cross the threshold. There he stopped and said, almost matter-of-factly, "To start with, I think I will take a walk up-stream to see who's throwing these babies in the river."¹

While this tale is adjusted and embellished to serve as illustration in any number of applications, it reminds me that often the things I perceive as solutions don't solve anything. It seems to me that my progress most often comes when I remember where I began; then I begin to understand where I'm headed.

"He who has ears, let him hear."

Your Pastor

¹ No single source for this illustration can be identified.



<u>Date</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Message Title</u>
February 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a	Matthew 5:13-16	Are You Salt?
February 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Baby Talk
February 19	Psalms 119:169-176	Luke 15: 3-10, 31-32	Lost and Found (or Found Out?)
February 26	Exodus 24:12-18	Matthew 17:1-9	When The Fog Clears?

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

advocating • connecting • networking

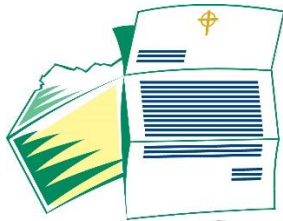
Baptist Women in Ministry is committed to advocating for, connecting to, and networking with women called to ministry, drawing together women and men, in partnership with God, to illuminate, advocate, and nurture the gifts and graces of women

Since 2007, Baptist Women in Ministry has invited Baptist churches to participate in having women preach to publicly attest to their support of women in ministry, to be counted with other Baptist churches in celebrating the calling and gifts of women, and to remind their congregation that God does indeed call women to the work of the kingdom.

On February 19th we will welcome Dr. Bonny Dillon to the pulpit. Bonny is a professor of psychology at Bluefield College. where she joined the faculty in 2011. Dr. Dillon received her BA in Religious Studies at UVA, Master of Divinity, as well as her Doctor of Philosophy Psychology of Religion from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is an ordained minister of and endorsed chaplain through the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Clinically, Bonny has been active in healthcare settings for over 30 years as a Board Certified Chaplain (BCC) and clinical educator. A Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) since 1987, she has provided pastoral psychotherapy in clinics and in private practice to individuals, couples, families, and groups.

Most recently, Bonny traveled to Orlando as a member of the American Red Cross Spiritual Response Team where she played a key role in providing mental and spiritual health care through the services of the FAC to more than 750 individuals, representing 243 families.



Annual Giving Statements

The 2016 year-end contribution statements have been mailed to all donors who contributed \$250 or more during the year. If you didn't receive your statement or have questions, please call the church office.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Calvary and its ministries!



If something should happen to you, would the church know how to get in contact with your family members? There are times when the church is called upon to make connections in the event of a medical emergency. To assist in this, we have created an emergency contact form that you may fill out so we might keep it on file here at Calvary should the need arise for us to assist you. Fill out as much of the form as you feel comfortable doing, and we will keep it on file.

This information will be held in a secure location and will be accessed, only in case of an emergency. This Emergency Contact process is an extension of Calvary's pastoral ministry care and is strictly voluntary. Everyone is encouraged to participate. If you haven't already completed a form, they are available on the church website for download or on the front pews in the sanctuary.

Evelyn Townsend Circle



Happy Birthday to the ET Circle

The group has completed 37 years of service to the Roanoke Valley and beyond! The group began in January, 1980 with Mary Calhoun Gearhart, Sue Epperly, Betty Hall and Evelyn Lewis and others in an organizational meeting. They meet on the second Monday evening of the months September through May at 7:00PM. The group welcomes anyone who would like to join.

Soup for Seniors

The Evelyn Townsend Circle wishes to thank all Calvary friends for their food contributions to the Soup for Seniors project through the Local Office on Aging (LOA)!

Next Meeting

In February the Circle will meet at the church on February 13th at 7:00 pm. New members are always welcome!



Music Ministry Search Committee:

The Search Committee met on Tuesday, January 10 and reviewed the applications received thus far. There were a couple of applicants that sparked some conversation, but in the end, the committee decided to broaden the search by placing the Minister of Music opening on additional websites to see if we can inspire more interest. This is a very important decision for Calvary and we recognize that the person we select for this position will have a major impact on the spiritual growth and worship at our church. Please keep the Search Committee in your prayers as we continue working on this important task.



Robert (Bob) Lee Plasters

March 12, 1927 - January 21, 2017



Funny Bones

Little Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

Birthday Blessings to members of our Calvary Family!



2/01 - Don Richardson
2/02 - Sue Epperly
2/03 - Susan Snyder
2/05 - Chris May
2/06 - Kathy Kinsey
2/07 - Raymond Eades, Mary Emory
2/08 - Ashley Hatcher
2/09 - Evelyn Lewis
2/11 - Sarah Grace Stanley
2/12 - Billie Wall, Anna Mae Smith
2/13 - Tina Saunders
2/16 - Mary Kay Cooper, Crystal Stoots
2/17 - Linda Reynolds
2/18 - Coretta Sowder
2/20 - Brittany May
2/24 - Sarah Hatcher
2/25 - Eddie Eades
2/27 - David Akers, Patrick de Simone
2/28 - Janice Deyerle (2/29)



Back by popular demand!

We had such fun on our last “field trip” to the Barter Theatre, we hope to organize another group day trip. We would love to hear from you regarding which destinations you would enjoy.

Those under consideration include:

1. Tuesday, April 18 - Greenbrier Resort Bunker Tour - cost \$34 per person includes 90-minute guided tour of the famous Underground Bunker, plus cost of round trip transportation (TBD). Estimated departure of 9:30 AM and return of 6:00 PM allows time for participants to tour the hotel and visit the restaurants and shops on the resort grounds.
2. Wednesday, May 10 - Shatley Springs, North Carolina - cost \$60 per person - includes roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation (Sunshine Tours), Family Style Lunch at Shatley Springs Inn. Departs Roanoke 8AM, Return 7:30PM
3. Saturday, August 5th. - D-Day Memorial & Smith Mountain Lake Luncheon Cruise - cost \$100 per person - includes roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation (Sunshine Tours) , Admission to D-Day Memorial, Luncheon Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake. Depart Roanoke 9AM, Return 7PM

Please call Debbie in the church office (344-9237) to let her know which trip(s) you would participate in. If you have a paper copy of The Columns, simply circle the trip(s) you prefer, tear off the slip and drop it at the office or in the offering plate on Sunday.