

News from Calvary

Calvary Baptist Church
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Visit Calvary on the Web, point your browser to:

<http://www.calvarybaptist-towson.org>

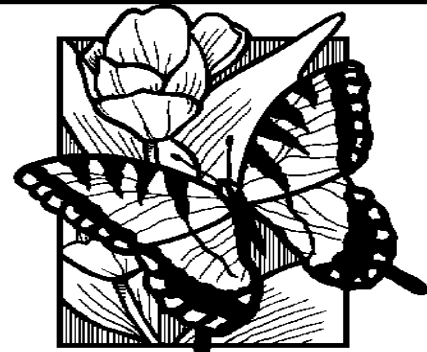
From the Pastor:

One major highlight from this past month took place on April 17th when an ordination council was held at the ABCOTS Missions Center, where Ruth Kulkarni and Christian Kirby received the endorsement of the congregations of the American Baptists in this area. It was a great day.

In truth I found, that while Christian and Ruth were dreading this who ordination council thing, I love these councils. I love them because it is one of the only times when I get to sit down with other ministers and talk, and even argue about issues of faith without fear of being thrown out of the family. While I enjoy the ordination process there is something that the others who sit on those councils don't know, that being, that I would be hard pressed to vote against a candidate who did not exhibit signs of mental illness.

My reason for doing that goes back to the time before I was ordained or had ever gone to seminary. I had graduated from college and completed my military service, and I was trying to figure out what I would do next. At that time there were two older men who were quite influential in guiding me. One was the Pastor in the church I grew up in, Ron Johnson. The other, John Reedy, was an English professor from Buffalo State who also had a divinity degree, and John was a Deacon at my home church. Both of these men spent much time talking with me at that time.

John Reedy probably had the inside track in these conversations, because he guided me as I worked with young adults in that congregation. So it was no surprise that when I decided to go to seminary, John's seminary, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, was my first and really



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only initial choice. John worked with me in filling out the application, checked over my statement about Christian experience and call, and made sure everything was complete and included when I applied. Then he waited with me for Gordon's response. I think John was more surprised that I was when Gordon rejected me, because Gordon took great pride in their academic rigor. What bothered me the most, wasn't the fact that I did not meet their academic standards, but that the person who wrote the letter had added a suggestion that I reconsider my calling.

I am sure that I went home and began doing just that. I am equally sure that John immediately called Ron Johnson. Because the next day Ron called me to tell me that he had contacted his seminary, Eastern Baptist. He said that he had talked to the Registrar at Eastern, who had told him that they had a space, and from their discussion believed that I would be a good candidate. So, the paper work was completed, and I was accepted at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I am glad I went to Eastern. I think my going there made a huge difference in the development of my theology.

Still I have never forgotten the arrogance of Gordon's registrar, and my anger with that

place has not even been tempered by knowing that Michael Graham, whom I love, studied there. Their rejection, of the idea that God could possibly work through someone like me, has been the determining factor in my never questioning God's call of any other human being. No matter how much I question their competence, I believe that God can work in mysterious ways through people whose gifts are beyond my comprehension. In this light I would suggest that you read Shusaku Endo's book Wonderful Fool. I have the copy I bought from the Baltimore County Public Library; so, you may have to borrow that book from me.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday Evening Programs as usual.

Remember that the **Towson Spring Festival** will be held May 1-2, including Sunday morning. We will, therefore, be worshipping at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning (May 2nd), and there will be no Sunday School. You are also encouraged to wear your "fair" instead of "good" clothes.

May 9th Mothers' Day.

May 10th

12 Noon Annie Armstrong Circle meeting in the Church Social Room; Alta is hostess. Please bring a sandwich.

7:30 p.m. Needles and News meeting in the home of Libby Field.

May 12th

5:45 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

May 22nd Towson Unitarian Universalist Church has invited Calvary to join them in a Scavenger Hunt. It will begin in our church parking lot at noon and last 4 hours... I think it will be fun... Here is a clip from their flyer:

Q. What is the Treasure Hunt?

A. It's a challenging, fun, family-friendly contest that will be taking place in the streets of Towson on **Saturday May 22,**

starting at noon. It lasts four hours.

Thousands of people will be competing, including Barack Obama and Lady Gaga.

May 24th

Sarah's Hope 9:00-1:00. Come when you can.

May 30th Pick-up cakes for Our Daily Bread and return by Saturday June 5th.

Make plans to come to the Church Picnic on Saturday June 12th.

Easter Offerings from the congregation for Missions:

Thai Seminary	\$557.80
ABC America for Christ	266.00
Annie Armstrong	130.00

New Deacons will begin serving on July 1st. *If anyone is willing to assist a deacon in any of the projects, please let that deacon know or call the church office. Each deacon always needs some help.*

HEALTH KITS

Annie Armstrong Circle is collecting Health kit items for the migrant workers and other health care needs through the middle of the month. The items which are currently needed are

Bath towel	Wash cloth
Soap	Shampoo
Comb	Tooth brush
Deodorant	Tooth paste
and/or cash.	

Dear Calvary Friends;

You are still my favorite church. I think of Calvary often and pray God will provide and bless the programs and people. I still think of Calvary as a jewel and you are missed.

Love ,

Paul Gillespie

On behalf of the Our Daily Bread Committee, thank you to the members of Calvary Baptist

Church for the delicious cakes contributed. It is such a treat for all the guests. And the loyal bakers have come through month after month, even through "that" snow storm. Thank you so much.