

News from Calvary

Calvary Baptist Church
120 W. Pennsylvania Avenue
Towson, Maryland
Telephone 410-825-3360

Visit Calvary on the Web, point your
browser to:

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

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

4:30 P.M. SPECIAL MUSIC BEGINS.

5:00 P.M. SERVICE BEGINS

From the Pastor:

I was reading a book that I had unearthed in my office the other day. It was written by May Sarton about her move, late in life, to a house by the sea, up in Maine. In the book are about two years of reflections of Ms. Sarton's life in *The House by the Sea*, which also happened to be the book's title.

At one point she remembered a Christmas card sent by a friend, with a Japanese water color of some sparrows. Inside the card was the following note from her friend: *"I send you these sparrows, thinking with Thornton Wilder and probably without Jacques Monod, that 'they do not lose a feather that is not brushed away by the finger of God.' and I wish you a happy feast of Christmas, with a recapture of the great sense of the meaningfulness of our lives, and enormous meaning, we are told, yet seldom obvious. Enormous or not, life is made of small things, small happinesses chained like daisies, one by one. Let the next year be such a chain for you."* (pg. 174)

Our present culture is obsessed with celebrity. We appear to believe that the only people that matter in life are those who are famous or infamous. The media is constantly in search of news stories that will provide the public with stories of these larger than life people, mega stars. And while I have to confess I do brose the covers of the *"Star"* and the *"Enquirer"*, when I am standing in line at the grocery store, I don't



put much stock in the verity or worth of their reporting.

I would agree more with the friend of Ms. Sarton that the most meaningful lives are those of people whose days are made up of small things... *"small happinesses chained together"*.

The essence of this Christmas season is summed up in that one word Emmanuel, God with us. The stories we have, to lend credence to one word explanation of the meaning of Christmas, speak of the simple life of an individual who taught and lived in a remote place. The Apache Tribe has a story "The Birth of He Triumphs over Evils." Their story is all about the birth, but tells nothing of the life of this triumphant one. Our story tells us about the simple birth, but it also tells us about the simple life of this one who triumphs over evils. Jesus' triumph wasn't brought about with weapons of war or the power of politics but by a simple peaceful walk. He didn't seize power to triumph, rather he triumphed over evil by refusing to use power to win.

Our Christmas faith tells us that God's eye is on sparrows and those who simply strive toward peace and goodness. May we be content to do simple and small things that bring happiness to the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday Evening Programs as usual December 1st, 8th, 15th. There will be no programs December 22nd due to celebration of Christmas.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY December 4th and 5th.

Children's play practice 9:45 a.m.

SUNDAY December 5th Communion
Congregational meeting to approve Budget 2010, immediately following Worship Service.

Following the business meeting there will be a **surprise 40th Wedding Anniversary Reception** for Ruth and Dilip Kulkarni in the Fellowship Hall. (Don't let Ruth know!)

THURSDAY December 9th 2:30– 7:00 **Shelter Meal Preparation**

SATURDAY December 11th

9:45 a.m.-11:15 Childrens' play rehearsal
11:15 a.m. Childrens' pie making.

SUNDAY December 12th

9:45 - 11:00 a.m. Childrens' play rehearsal.
11 a.m. Worship & **Christmas Pageant**, presented by the children.
Christmas Dinner immediately following Worship Service.

MONDAY December 13th

12 Noon – **Annie Armstrong Circle** meeting in the church social room, Mary Frantz hostess.

SATURDAY December 18th, 9:00 a.m.

Decorating the sanctuary.
3:00-6:00 p.m.- **Caroling.** Supper refreshments at the home of Martha Wylie. Please let us know if you are attending and what you are bringing to the chili supper.

TUESDAY December 21st, Baltimore County Communities for the homeless will have a **"Longest Night" Service, at Calvary** beginning at **5:00 p.m.** The Service will be followed by a meal.

WEDNESDAY December 22nd: There will be a special service to **Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** here at Calvary at 7:30 p.m..

December 24th, For the program: if you would like to have your child in the Pageant of Lights and if you would like to be a disciple please contact Susan Edwards.

December 26th Pick-up cakes for Our Daily Bread and return by Saturday.

Snow Policy: As a reminder to you of what we do when it snows after we have gotten back from the store with necessary provisions:

1. Sunday Morning activities are never canceled. However if you are scheduled to take part in Worship or Sunday School, prayer, reading, music, or teaching, don't kill yourself getting here. We will get along with whoever shows up, and the service may be abbreviated depending on number of attendees.
2. Wednesday Evening programs follow the schedule for Baltimore County Schools. If they are closed, so are we. If they close early, we are closed.
3. Use your common sense.

During the month of January the Annie Armstrong Circle is collecting the following for OUR DAILY BREAD

Tea bags with strings

Sandwich-size ziplock bags

Brown lunch bags

Please leave your donations in the designated container at the back door. Thank you for your contribution.

Dear Calvary Family,

*My thoughts, love and prayers for you this Advent and Christmas Season.
God bless each of you.*

Paul G. Gillespie

December 2010

Dear Members and Friends:

It is time once again to make arrangements for our Christmas flowers.

Would you be interested in purchasing one or more of the beautiful poinsettia plants to be used for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service? The price will be \$8.00 each.

Please make your check payable to Calvary Baptist Church and send along with the right half of this letter with your information to me or to the Church.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Ann Coughlin
4417 Fieldgreen Road
Baltimore, MD 21236

Yes, I would like _____ red, _____ white, _____ pink
plant(s) to , loaned or donated (circle one), in memory of _____

A check in the amount of \$_____ .
(Please mark check "For Christmas Flowers")

Signature

Address
