

PRESCHOOL EXTENDED SESSION

10:30 AM WORSHIP (December 20)

PRESCHOOL I: Cindy Ketron, Beverly Rorrer

PRESCHOOL II: Marilyn Dockery, Peggy Shoemaker

PRESCHOOL III: Lynn Shoemaker, Debbie Johnson

USHERS (December 20)

Russell Ratliff, Ralph Young

Eddie McDavid, Devie Owens

GREETERS (December 20)

Brian & Julie Shoemaker,

Bill Orrick, Alvin & Jennifer Shoemaker

And the People Came . . . (December 13, 2009)

Sunday School	164
Bible Study (B. Seymour)	87
Homebound	0
SONshine Seniors Bible Study (Fri.)	0
Total in Bible Study last week	251

And the People Gave . . . (December 13, 2009)

Weekly Requirements	\$ 9,573.45
Received December 13	\$ 13,568.58
Designated December 13	\$ 1,245.00

Our church is supported by tithes and free-will offerings.

It is the privilege of all members to give regularly as God has prospered.

Merry Christmas

The *simple blessings* of Christmas are all around us...
 In the bustle of the season and even in the challenges of life.
 This Christmas, *open your heart*
 And don't miss out on a single *gift God has given you...*
JOY, PEACE, COMFORT, LOVE
 The simple blessings of Christmas are for everyone.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Calvary Goal \$12,000.00
Amt. given as of 12/13/09 \$1,940.00



Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor: Dr. Donnie C. Brannen
 Music/Education: Rev. D. Mikel Caywood
 Secretary: Jennifer Ramey
 Organist: Frances Mooney
 Pianist: Debbie Johnson
 Keyboard: Lemuel Mixon
 Drummer: Brian Shoemaker
 Parish Nurse: Barbara Bowling, RN

Periodicals

Heart and Hand (USPS 974-380) Published weekly except Christmas week by Calvary Baptist Church, 1238 Pine Street, Kingsport, Tennessee 37664-2432. Periodicals Postage Paid Kingsport, Tennessee.

Heart and Hand

“Experiencing Christ Through Caring and Sharing”



1238 Pine Street
 Kingsport, TN 37664
 (423) 245-9157

Filled with compassion Jesus reached out and touched the man. – Mark 1:41

Vol. LXIII No. 51

December 16, 2009

Schedule of Ministry

Sunday, December 20

9:15 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Morning Worship

4:45 PM Instrumental Praise Ensemble (Rutledge Class)

5:30 PM Youth Christmas Party(CH)

5:30 PM Christmas Caroling all through the Village
Hot chocolate & cookies (FH)

Wednesday, December 23

No Evening Activities at Calvary

Thursday, December 24

Church office closed

9:00 PM Christmas Eve service

Friday, December 25

Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Church office closed

May God fill your life with family, friends, love, joy and peace this CHRISTmas Season and throughout the New Year

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

I read an interesting article several years ago in *Israel, My Glory* magazine about the origins of some of our more familiar Christmas hymns, and I wanted to share some of that information with you (along with my own thoughts in italics) as we approach Christmas this year.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing: I was surprised to discover that the song went through four different hands to come into its present form. Charles Wesley (1707-1788) wrote the original song to a much different tune than the one we're now so familiar with. In its original form, the first line was "Hark, how the welkin (heaven) rings." A few years later, the great evangelist George Whitefield changed that first line, over Wesley's objections, to "Hark, the herald angels sing." Fifty-two years after Wesley's death, in 1840, Felix Mendelssohn, a Jewish believer in Jesus, composed a secular cantata to celebrate the anniversary of the invention of the printing press. In 1855, eight years after Mendelssohn's death, English musician William H. Cummings put Wesley's words with Mendelssohn's music to create the final form of the song we sing today. *When I read the history of the song, I thought to myself, "How like God!" Our God is a God who brings disparate things together to make something new. Just as He brought the different gifts and talents of these men together to create this cherished hymn, so too He brings believers and their gifts and talents together in churches, and the final result is far greater than the sum of the parts. Beyond that, God's work is a multi-generational work. Calvary Baptist Church in its present form has been passed on to us by those who came before us. Our job, under the Lord's leadership, is to put our particular stamp on it, make it better, and pass it along to future generations.*

Joy to the World: In 1689, a 15-year-old boy complained to his father that the music in their church was boring and meaningless to the younger generation (Sound familiar? Some things never change!). That father challenged his son, Isaac Watts, to do better. Isaac ran with that challenge. It took him three years to compose his first hymn, but by the end of his life, he had written more than 700 hymns and had completely transformed the music of the church. He wrote the lyrics of *Joy to the World* in 1719, but it was not set to music until 1839, when Lowell Mason, an American composer, took the lyrics and wove them into musical phrases written by George Frederick Handel (1684-1759), thus

making it another multi-generational "group project." *Isaac Watts saw a problem in his church and was challenged by his father not just to complain, but to dive in and do something about it. Could it be that our Heavenly Father is making the same challenge? When we find ourselves dissatisfied with some aspect of church life, God may be revealing it to us because He wants to use us to find a better way, a better way that may end up being a blessing to many others.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem: Pastor Phillips Brooks of Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia wrote the poem after a visit to Bethlehem in 1865. In December 1867, he gave it to his church organist, Lewis Redner, and asked him to compose a simple melody for it to be sung at a children's Christmas service. Redner struggled late into the night with the assignment, and finally fell asleep. The story goes that he awoke during the night with what he called "an angel strain" sounding in his ears. He jotted down the melody, and the children's choir sang it later that day. Amazingly, no one outside the church heard the song until it was published in a newspaper ten years later. *The latter phrase of Psalm 127:2 can be translated either "He gives to His beloved sleep" or "He gives to His beloved in his sleep." Both sentiments are true. Many have been the times I have fallen into a fitful sleep wrestling with a problem only to awaken the next morning with the solution clearly before me. And then there are those times when I have awakened in the wee hours of the morning with a full sermon outline going through my mind. I'm sure you have had similar experiences. Secularists would attribute such incidents to the "subconscious mind"; I attribute them to a loving God, who sometimes must wait to speak until our crowded, hurried, noisy minds are quiet enough for us to hear. In the crowded, hurried, noisy days of December, let's make it a point to seek out pockets of solitude, to show down and embrace the quiet, listening for His still, small voice.*

Silent Night: On Christmas Eve, 1818, pastor Joseph Mohr of St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, had a problem. A midnight service had been planned, and the church organ was broken. He walked more than a mile in the snow to the home of Franz Gruber, the church's choirmaster, clutching a poem he had written two years before. Gruber quickly composed an uncomplicated melody for the lyrics on his guitar, and it was sung that night to guitar accompaniment. *Romans 8:28 teaches us that "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." A broken*

organ on Christmas Eve looked like a disaster, but God brought out of it what is perhaps the world's most beloved Christmas hymn. What negative situations might we face this Christmas season and beyond into 2010? Will we trust the Lord to bring good out of them?

It is my prayer that you will have a wonderful Christmas season and a wonderful New Year. May God bless you and your family abundantly as you celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Numbers 6:24-26,

Bro. Donnie

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, support and many other expressions of Christian love during the last several weeks. It is wonderful to be a part of such a caring church. May God bless each of you.

- Karen Ayers

Year-End Giving

You will be able to give your final year-end gift until noon on December 30th and receive credit on your 2009 contribution report. God asks us to consider our gifts to Him so that we may give cheerfully, bountifully, and not begrudgingly. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Christian Love & Sympathy goes out to Janice Ham and family in the loss of her aunt, Ruth Adams. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Children's Department

Christmas Party

Friday, December 18

6:00 PM

Dress warm and meet at the church to go on a hayride and Christmas Caroling.