

CALVARY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2011



Who Is Your King



A Seasonal Dramatization (P.3)

Women of Purpose Holiday Celebration

*Sisters coming together in the spirit of
Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus!*

The Mansion at Bretton Woods

361 Speedwell Ave
Morris Plains, NJ

December 17, 2011

12: 00 pm - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$15

Register in MJFH or online at:
www.calvarybc.org/themansion.html

For more info, contact: Sis. Melisa Carter
or Min. Valerie E. Williams

JOIN US!

Enjoy Lunch,
Music,
Activities,
Sharing &
Secret Sister Reveal!

Wear your holiday attire!



Calvary Baptist Church • 10 Martin Luther King Avenue • Morristown, NJ 07960
973.267.0136 • www.calvarybc.org • Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr., Senior Pastor

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(Submissions may be edited before publication)

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CALVARY'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7PM

CHURCH CONFERENCE • Location: MJFH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 11AM - 3PM

GOLDEN YEARS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Location: The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6:30PM

MEN'S ONLY "SATURDAY NITE LIVE"

Location: CBC Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 12PM - 4PM

WOP HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Location: The Mansion at Bretton Woods

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 8PM

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 10AM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 8 & 10:30PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012, 10AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE



ON THE COVER

CHURCH SCHOOL

& DRAMA MINISTRY

PRESENT A SEASONAL

DRAMATIZATION OF

"WHO IS YOUR KING"

SAT. DEC. 17, 6:30PM

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

We ask that you please be mindful and adhere to all of the admission dates for articles and advertisements so that The Connection can be made available to the congregation the first Sunday of the respective months. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

The Calvary Connection Staff

THE CALVARY CONNECTION EDITORIAL CALENDAR 2011

| MONTH | YEAR | SPECIAL EDITIONS | DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES 1ST DRAFT | 2ND DRAFT/REVISIONS | FINAL | FLIER FINAL |
|----------|------|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|
| February | 2012 | Black History | 1/6/12 | 1/13/12 | 1/27/12 | 1/27/12 |

CBC Intercessory Prayer Ministry is Getting A...

NEW LOOK

Like New Wine in New Wineskins, the Intercessory Prayer Ministry has been Renewed, Refreshed and Revived & will be launching a New Prayer Line

January 2012!!!

Save the Date

Kick-off: Thurs. Jan. 5, 2012

Time: 7pm

Address: Chapel



Matt. 9:17



Angel Tree Project

Be a Blessing to
Someone This Holiday!



Purpose:

An Outreach Project where anyone can donate gifts to children on behalf of incarcerated parents.

***Angels will be available on Sunday, November 27th in the foyer of the church
Please wrap & return gift(s) in bin next to Angel Tree with child's name,
and Angel by Sunday, December 18th***

A Collaboration Between:

***Prison Ministry*, Men of Standard*, Teen Lounge*
& *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.***



Please contact Samaria Paul: 862-222-1070 or Min. Scott: 201-572-8892
Calvary Baptist Church, 10 Martin Luther King Ave., Morristown, NJ, 07960
Rev. Jerry Carter Jr., Senior Pastor



GIFT GIVING IN TOUGH TIMES

In times like these, with a floundering economy and scarce resources, many of us focus our priorities on financial self-preservation and self-indulgence. When we ought to be giving more than ever to help others, we are prone to turn inwards and hoard what we have been blessed with among our close friends and family members. This season of giving, even in bountiful times, often finds us succumbing to ritualized bequeathing of gifts, not with a genuine motive of love and compassion, but out of obligation and habit. It is easy in tough times to forget that what we do have is itself a grace gift of God who has made our existence and our hope possible. We should never take the Christ of Christmas for granted.

You can imagine what God thinks about our mindless scrambling around to fulfill our obligatory shopping and swapping in the hectic period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. From Black Friday to Cyber Monday and beyond, we are rushing madly to save a few dollars and lavish upon ourselves the luxuries and favors we have denied our-

selves all year. And through it all, our tendency is to place the Savior at the bottom of our priority list. It is a sad state of affairs that surrounded by all the commercial commotion, we fail to appreciate the greatest possible gift that anyone could ever receive – the gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfully, God does not have high expectations of us, and is not waiting with heightened anticipation to see if we will honor Him with special favor. But it is during these difficult times that we should be especially grateful for the fact that we have a hope that stretches far beyond what we see in our circumstances, no matter how dire they may appear at the moment. At a minimum, we should be showing fervent and joyous gratitude for what God has done for us, not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year for the ultimate sacrifice He made in granting us the unmerited gift of salvation.

How can we give to God, who we know already owns all things? We can start by being obedient to His

mandate in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that, “In every thing [we should] give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” In so doing, we attribute to God the glory, the majesty, and the honor due his name, and recognize His sovereignty in governing and blessing our lives. As we give to God, we also:

- Give to others the love that God has shown to us,
- Give to ourselves a renewal of the covenant bonds between ourselves and God,
- Give to ourselves a continuing reminder of the abiding presence of God in our lives on a daily and hourly basis, and
- Give to others a visible witness of our dependence upon God and our belief that God works all things for our good.
- Give God what He is rightfully due, and every gift we give, and every gift we receive will be scented with the sweet aroma of God’s favor –yes, even in tough times! ■

PASTOR CARTER HOSTS SUCCESSFUL PREACHING CONFERENCE

BY MINISTER DAVID A. HOLLOWELL

For the third consecutive year, Pastor Carter hosted the "How Shall They Hear" Conference at Calvary on Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19, 2011. This year, the conference focused on an area that many consider difficult and challenging – doctrinal preaching. Kudos to Pastor Carter for selecting such a formidable topic for exploration and exposition. Fortunately, few participants shied away from this daunting endeavor, and the enrollment of old and new attendees was as strong as ever.



Pastor Carter facilitating workshop

The general theme of the conference was a variation on the 2011 Calvary church theme, "Pouring Old Wine Into New Wineskins." Much of the appeal of this year's conference was attributable to the extraordinary lineup of workshop leaders and preachers that drew from a pool of nationally and regionally acclaimed scholars, writers and orators. Heading the list as conference preacher and lecturer was Dr. Robert R. Smith, who teaches Christian Preaching at the Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. Among his extensive record of service as educator, scholar and pastor is his former position as Associate Professor of Preaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY; author and co-author of several books, and former pastor for twenty years of New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The conference closing preacher was Rev. Joe A. Carter, a local pastor who is no stranger to Calvary. As a gifted preacher, Rev. Carter has traveled across the nation preaching and teaching for the past thirty years, including eighteen of which have been dedicated to serving as Assistant Pastor and Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. He is a tireless leader seeking to advocate for the community through his Christian Leaders for Community Empowerment (CLCE) organization.



**Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.,
conference preacher**

Other luminaries included Rev. Dr. Patrick DeWitt Clayborn, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Drew University and Associate Minister at St. James AME Church in Newark, NJ; Rev. Wayne E. Croft, Sr., who serves as the Jeremiah A. Wright, Sr., Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics in African American Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Dean of the Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association; Rev. Raquel A. St. Clair Lettsome, Ph.D., who is the first African American woman to receive the degree



Dr. Jesse T. Williams lecturing at workshop

of Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, and who serves as the Executive Minister at the historic St. James AME Church in Newark, NJ; Rev. Dr. Jesse T. Williams, Jr., Senior Pastor of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church in Harlem, NYC, and former faculty member and current Board of Directors member of the Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri; Rev. Cleophus J. LaRue, longtime friend of Calvary. Who now serves as Professor of Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary, and who is the author of two books, numerous articles, and is continually sought after as a preacher and lecturer throughout the country and abroad, and; our own Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr., Ph.D., who led a workshop himself in this year's conference.



Conference registration

With such a distinguished roster of teachers, lecturers and preachers, conference participants expected and received a full menu of weighty presentations to reinvigorate their ministries and re-establish the fundamental doctrines of the Christian Church as the essential biblical foundation for espousing spiritual truth, and the solid platform upon which to build church membership, ministry impact, and discipleship.

It will not do justice here to attempt to recapitulate the well-researched presentations and sermons offered over the two-day conference, but just a listing of some of the workshops will give some indication of the stockpile of information and resources provided to participants:

- Dealing Creatively with Didactic Passages: Preaching What the Text Teaches

- Finding Fresh Water in Old Wells: Contemporizing the Ancient Text
- Telling the Story: The Doctrine is in the Details
- Preaching and the Black Imagination
- Preparing to Preach: Overcoming Obstacles
- Turning Eras Into Eyes: Using Metaphors to Paint Doctrinal Pictures

Sandwiched between a stirring open sermon on Friday night and a penetrating closing discourse on Saturday afternoon, Dr. Robert Smith conducted a plenary session Saturday morning that was filled with such deep insights that no one wanted it to end.



Rev. Raquel A. St. Clair Lettsome leading workshop

All good things must come to a close, however, and the whole assembly ended with a full and bountiful plate of a mighty Word that heals, matures and expands the Kingdom of God. As Pastor Carter reminds us in his letter of welcome, "It is my sincere desire that this conference will accomplish its mission to impact preachers, who impact churches that impact the world. When the mission is accomplished, the world will be changed by our effective, inspired, improved delivery of God's transforming Word!" ■

“SATURDAY NITE LIVE” COMES ALIVE

BY MINISTER DAVID A. HOLLOWELL

Since the first Saturday in September, Calvary has hosted a special Saturday evening service. For those who have been blessed to attend, the services have proven to be invigorating and creative. The intent of this pilot program was to offer an alternative worship experience to several categories of people: (1) those who have traditionally un-churched and who may feel some discomfort attending a regular service; (2) those who by reason of work schedule or other logistical hindrance find it inconvenient or impossible to attend Sunday services, and; (3) those who desire to escape the perceived rigidity of a highly structured service and worship in a less formal environment.



**Gaius Charles leading
College Night worship**

To date, “Saturday Nite Live” has drawn significantly from all three categories and has developed a regular following



Seton Hall Gospel Choir at College Night

of loyal devotees. One of the key ingredients that attract many is the spirited and enthusiastic music generated by Brother George Sykes and volunteers that have sung with him from week to week. Although rehearsed, most of the songs encourage active audience participation, and in many respects, appear to be spontaneous outpourings of praise to the Lord. It is no wonder that many people are on their feet, tapping out the rhythm of the beat and clapping to the rousing lyrics.

Primarily, Pastor Carter has been the deliverer of the Word, and his sermons have usually captured the highlights of the early morning message with a dynamic spin that addresses this special audience. With skill and robustness, Pastor Carter is always able to come forth with a meaningful message that resonates with the Saturday night crowd.

Of special note, Saturday, November 19, 2011 was designated as college night,

and students from Fairleigh Dickinson, Drew, and the College of St. Elizabeth joined the festivities and were served a light meal upon their arrival. As a special feature of the evening, the Seton Hall University Gospel Choir graced worshippers with several renditions from their repertoire.

**TO ALL CALVARY
MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND
GUESTS, A MEN-ONLY
“SATURDAY NITE LIVE”
SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 10.
PLEASE PASS THE WORD
ONTO EVERYONE YOU
KNOW. WE ARE CONFIDENT
THAT THEY WILL
NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!**

Wrap Gifts in Support of People Living with HIV/AIDS



Join New Jersey AIDS Services
as we host gift-wrapping services
at the Rockaway Mall from
Nov. 25 to Dec. 24, 2011

*All proceeds will benefit people
living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey*

Individuals, groups and families welcome!

Schedule your volunteer shift TODAY
By contacting Rosanne Maglio
r.maglio@njas-inc.org or (973) 285-0060



44 South Street
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 285-0006

www.NJAS-Inc.org

CALVARY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ***BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS ONE BOOK AT A TIME***

BY SISTER FERLANDA FOX NIXON

***“Today a reader,
tomorrow a leader.”***

W. Fusselman/Margaret Fuller

The Calvary Community Development Corporation (CCDC) recently teamed up with the Morris County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (MCJJ), to do its part in shaping a generation of inquisitive and informed leaders. For a series of three Saturdays, November 12 and 19, and December 10, at Calvary Baptist Church (CBC), the CCDC and MCJJ exposed approximately 10 young learners, ages four to eight, to the wonders of reading. Facilitated by Ivette Gonzalez, a certified reading specialist with more than 20 years of experience as an educator, the Leadership through Learning Literary Workshop Series used literature as a teaching tool to introduce character (i.e., that which makes us who we are) and to foster global awareness and leadership skills. Each highly interactive session emphasized character development through a story-telling lens. Through the study of award-winning books like *Let’s Talk About Race*, by Julius Lester, *The Other Side*, by Jacqueline Woodson, and *My Buddy*, by Audrey Osofsky, the children learned that despite our cultural and racial differences and physical challenges, the vast majority of us possess intrinsic similarities that often are not readily apparent.

For the culminating session, MCJJ selected children’s author Helen Kimbrough to serve as the featured guest speaker. A former CBC member who now lives with her family in Charlotte, North Carolina, Ms. Kimbrough is the author of two multicultural books for young readers, *Ocean Waves and Other Tales* and *Play Dates and Other Tales*. Since publishing her first book in 2007, Ms. Kimbrough has committed herself to literacy initiatives for young children. She attends events nationwide blessing audiences with her writings and encouraging individuals (children and parents alike) to consider creative writing as a viable career.

Judging by the smiles and attentiveness of all the children, the

program succeeded in awakening in each of them a genuine excitement for reading. From this fun-filled approach to learning, the CCDC hopes each child who attended the workshop series ultimately will become a voracious reader of not only books but newspapers, magazines, blogs, and the like as he or she progresses through adolescence to adulthood. As we know, our greatest leaders also are informed leaders. ■



Story-time with reading specialist Ivette Gonzalez

(The Leadership through Learning Literary Workshop Series was underwritten by a grant from the Jack and Jill of America Foundation, Inc. The CCDC provided administrative support to MCJJ in executing the program.)

Upcoming CCDC Events:

- **Toastmasters International public speaking club**
- **Computer lessons for beginners of all ages**
- **Writing workshops for everyday matters (e.g., resumes, cover letters, business proposals, etc.)**
- **SAT review for the March 10 test**

ILLUMINATIONS

WITH MINISTER EVONNE JEFFERSON
SHINING A LIGHT ON CALVARY MEMBER

Ila Tatum



Most of us know her as Deaconess Ila Tatum, lead alto in the Unity Choir, member of the Praise Team and also a few characters, like “EZ I” rapper, one of the many self-made characters she has introduced via skits especially designed for children on given Sundays; but you can guarantee adults look forward to them just as much as the children. It’s a joy to watch her use her talents and helping us to share in the laughter. I always look forward to what’s going to do next. I took the opportunity to find out more of what goes on in the creative mind of Deaconess Tatum and how she got her illustrious start.

EJ: Are you a Jersey girl, I mean, are you originally from NJ? If not, where and how long have you been a member of Calvary?

IT: Jersey Girl? No way. West Coast rocks the most! I’m from Cali. And although I haven’t lived there since I was 18 (except for a brief stint after getting out of the Army), I still rep San Jose! Do YOU know the way?

EJ: Probably everyone who knows you knows that you have a way with children. When and how did you begin your ministry with the children?

IT: Some guy suckered me into it! A past member, Jerome Ware, was supposed to do it and asked me to substitute for him. There used to be a few folks who did them, including Deaconess McCoy! I had never done it before. But my mother was in politics. So I had no fear of speaking in front of people, especially kids, who are far more forgiving than adults.

EJ: Was the sanctuary always the venue for the skits that you do for the children and how often do you minister?
IT: I’ve only done it once outside of CBC at a Hallelujah Night at Bethel, I think. It was a disaster. Too many kids and the adults didn’t seem to get the concept of

what I was trying to do. At CBC, the story used to be almost every second Sunday. But over the past few years, it’s just upon Pastor’s request. I’m OK with that because after awhile you start running out of ideas!

EJ: Do you ever minister outside of Calvary?

IT: Other than the disastrous Hallelujah Night years ago, I taught a seminar for Min. Valerie Williams at her former church. They liked it so much they sent me a supplement to my honorarium.

EJ: What are some of your inspirations for your skits? What’s your development process and how long does it usually take before you perfect a skit?

IT: There is no formula. God just drops them on me. I can be sitting around doing nothing and all of a sudden something will come to me. I usually just scribble it down and then rewrite it to formalize it. If I spend too much time massaging it, it loses its original intent.

EJ: Can you share some past skits and what was the overall message?

IT: When I started off, the stories were pretty basic. I would try to tie in some school stuff into Biblical stories. We played Hangman while trying to relate to Haman. We did some math with the time the Jews were slaves verses the time Blacks were slaves in America. Now people are looking for a production. So the pressure is on. Some of my favorites were: Big Aunty Knowes (Beyonce Knowles spoof): If you value your body as a temple, you should “put a ring on it”. The Parchment twins were my backup dancers. I borrowed my sister in-law’s wig and my girlfriend’s big wig to complete the look. I also added extensions to the Parchment twins. The crowning moment for the adults was when the wig flew off during my exit. James Brown spoof: Can’t

recall the lesson off the top of my head. Ed McGrady is always a good announcer/promoter. He held my cape for this one! Spit On: This was a black history lesson I did years ago linking the civil rights fighters getting spit on to when Jesus spit on the man to restore his vision.

It’s always a pleasure to bring members of the congregation into the story lines. Liddie Coakley, Torina Armstrong, Connie Melton are a few that have been used.

IT: Are you currently working on anything new for the children, and if so, when can the congregation look forward to you blessing us again? I have nothing scheduled and don’t even have a pending story brewing in my head. When the time is right, both God and Pastor will let me know.

EJ: I know that you sing, but what some might not know is that you have a penchant for motor cycles. What kind do you ride and how long have you been riding? Are you a member of any clubs?

IT: I always told my husband that for my mid-life crisis I would either have a convertible or a motorcycle. About 3 years ago, I settled on the motorcycle (since we couldn’t afford the kind of convertible I would want). Last year I took the safety course at CCM through Riders Education of New Jersey. I recommend this course for anyone interested in riding. I got my license and my starter bike which I outgrew in about a month. I graduated to my current Harley Davidson Fat Boy by the end of the summer last year. I am proud to be a probationary rider with the Buffalo Soldiers of Northern New Jersey. The Buffalo Soldiers have a strong history dating back to the post civil war era. I plan to have the group at CBC soon to educate the children on this part of their heritage. ■

A festive Christmas scene featuring a large red ornament, a gold patterned ribbon, and a green pine branch with warm lights.

*Merry
Christmas*