

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

2801 Park Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510
Pastor Charles Lucchesi 516-223-4070

E-mail: calvarychurch@optonline.net Website: www.cpchaldwin.com



CALVARY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

Benefits of Believing

If you turn on the news these days, you will most likely hear a great deal about benefits - Social Security benefits, Medicare benefits, health insurance, and perhaps many others. Everybody has the answers, but no one has the solutions. People are losing confidence in their leaders as they receive notices that their benefits have been dropped. Benefits that were once viewed as stable are now found to be at best unreliable.

But amidst the uncertainties of life, Christ came to be born of a woman, born under the law. And it is by faith in Christ that we are assured great and everlasting benefits. There is a difference, however, between the benefits that we work so hard for and the ones that Christ bestows. For the blessings and benefits that God pours out upon us in and through His Son, Jesus, he does so freely of His grace.

I like how the Westminster Shorter Catechism summarizes the Biblical teaching on this matter of benefits - "What benefits do they that have looked to Christ in faith partake of in this life?" (WSC #32) The answer to the question is this:

They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

In other words, these benefits are reserved for those who have looked to Christ in faith.

It is the work of the Spirit of God by which we are convinced of our sin and misery, and are brought to an understanding of the work of Christ, and are given the ability to embrace Him by faith.

When we look to Christ in faith, we are justified (declared righteous), adopted into the family, and sanctified (purified from the corruption and pollution of sin). The amazing thing about these benefits is that they are not temporary, and no one is able to take them away from us. They are eternal benefits which we begin to enjoy in this life and continue to enjoy for all eternity. The benefits we enjoy at death, and at the resurrection. The Lord wants us to understand that these benefits belong to us, not because we have earned them or worked for them, but solely because of what God has done for us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

These benefits are only possible because Jesus Christ, God's eternal son, took on flesh. John tells us, "*The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1:14) Earlier in that same passage John declares, "*But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*" In His mercy, God has not treated us as our sins deserve, and in His grace He has lavished upon us what we do not deserve.

By granting to us the ability to believe in His Son, He adopts us into His family and gives the promise of life everlasting. Without Christ, we are without hope, but with Christ, we have eternal and everlasting benefits. Now that is something for which to rejoice.

(continued on next page)

My prayer for you in this season and throughout the year, if you have not placed your trust in Christ, is that you will do so and begin to experience the great benefits of being a child of God. If you do know Him, my prayer is that you will grow more acquainted with the extent of the benefits that are yours in Christ.

Think about it. When we receive a letter concerning our health benefits, we read it. We want to fully understand what is covered and what isn't. In the same way, we must eagerly turn to God's Word to discover all of the benefits belonging to those who

have looked to Christ by faith! The more we know of them, the greater will be our gratitude, and our rejoicing, and the greater our service will be to Christ.

So friends, as you celebrate this season of the year, my prayer is that you would celebrate Christ. And no matter what happens in this unstable world around us, don't worry. If you are in Christ, your eternal benefits are secure - so begin to live out of gratitude for the grace you have been shown!

Blessings,
Pastor Charlie

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This year's Christmas Eve Service was not held in person, but was pre-recorded and uploaded to YouTube and the church's website. You can still view the service by going to www.cpcbaldwin.com and click on [YouTube](#).

The Rose and Waldvogel families had small gatherings in their own homes to watch the Christmas Eve Service on-line and create their own candlelight sing-a-long. Pictured are their family and friends participating in the carol sing while holding the candles.

Pictured right are Melissa and Justin; pictured below in left photo are Rolf, Heide, Martha, Brady, and Tim; pictured below in right photo are Tim, Brant and Reed.



Church Updates

We have now put the year 2020 behind us - a difficult year that will never be forgotten. As we start the new year with hope that the vaccine will help to reduce the number of cases, we must continue to follow guidelines to keep everyone's safety in mind.

Two worship services take place each Sunday: **9:30 a.m. service is held downstairs; 11:00 a.m. service is held upstairs in the sanctuary.** Face masks must be worn during the service, and to physically distance from one another seating is separated.

For those who cannot attend the Sunday service, the worship service is still being recorded and will be posted on the church website (www.cpcbaldwin.com - click on "YouTube") and streamed on YouTube at www.youtube.com (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin, NY).

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Since the end of November the women in the Ladies Bible Study have been busy collecting items to be donated to the men at Recovery House in Uniondale and to the women at Mercy Hall in Freeport. These residential homes are for men and women who are recovering from substance dependency, and are given a place to sleep, daily meals, a supportive environment, and counselling.

Donations of new and slightly used clothes, toiletries, stationery, and many other personal items were brought to the church and placed on tables in the gym. A few people came to the church ahead of time to organize all the items, then more volunteers got together a few days later to pack the gift bags. Within no time there were 14 gift bags prepared for the men, and 22 gift bags prepared for the ladies. All the gift bags were delivered a few days before Christmas.

Kathy Guerin (a church member) is the supervisor/manager at Recovery House. She and other staff members spent time with the men at the home as they gathered around for a dinner, and then they opened their gifts. Kathy wrote a note of thanks on behalf of the men at Recovery House.

What a wonderful night the men at Recovery House had on December 23rd. After enjoying a special dinner, the men opened their gifts from Calvary. The staff enjoyed watching the men model their hats, shirts, sweaters, etc. One of the residents had only arrived that day and had shared that he needed razors; and lo and behold! he found them in his gift bag that evening. That was my time to remind him that God is with us and He will give us what we need. I pray that the men will open their hearts to Jesus now that they each have a Bible that was placed in their gift bag.

Mercy Hall, a women's halfway house in Freeport, also received Christmas bags. The ladies also had a nice dinner. The staff shared that the women were thrilled to receive the gifts. Each bag had a home-made scarf for each woman.

So much thought and time was spent to coordinate, pack, and deliver these gifts to both houses. Many heartfelt thanks to Patti and to ALL who helped to make Christmas special for these women and men who come to us lost. I pray that they will find peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Kathy Guerin



THANK YOU!!!

Even with the limitations placed upon us due to the pandemic, there were still some activities that took place at the church.

Throughout all of December many people participated in the pre-recording of the Christmas Eve Service - Pastor Lucchesi, those working the sound system and video camera, all the musicians (including organist and instrumentalists), the readers, those performing special music, and to those who edited all the recordings and finalized the video of the service.

There were many people who participated in the outreach for the men at Recovery House and the ladies at Mercy Hall. We thank those who donated and sorted the items, those who wrapped and helped fill the gift bags, and to the people who brought the gifts to the homes. This is only the second year that gifts were delivered to the men. It has been almost 20 years that gift bags have been delivered to the ladies at Mercy Hall.

A few days before Christmas our Chef Ralph cooked a delicious roast beef dinner for the seniors in the church family. Others assisted in packaging the meals and goodies, and a number of people helped to deliver them. There were 39 meals prepared all together. The seniors very much appreciated receiving the meal.

The church is grateful for each and every one, for your dedication, for serving our great God, for helping to make the holiday uplifting for others, and for giving honor to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you!!!

GOD'S PROMISE

God has not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God has not promised
Sun without rain
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God has promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love!

Calvary Chronicle

Calvary Protestant Church
2801 Park Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baldwin, NY
11510-4100
Permit No. 192

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

1st Martha Mietenkorte
3rd David Brewster
4th Gregory Dapice
5th Magalie Alcindor
6th Fitz Alcindor (Sr.)
8th Matthew Lucchesi
9th Lorna Bigby
9th Steven Elcock
14th Dorothy Brown
16th Bob Benedetto
18th Raynell Falden
21st Louise Fazzino
21st Eugene Lloyd
22nd Wally Capasso
22nd Erin Waldvogel
24th Magaline Alcindor
24th Vincent Rotolo
24th Tim Waldvogel
25th Finch Waldvogel
27th Dave Senita
29th Roy Knoernschild
29th Allison Linhart
30th Ralph Rose
31st Chris Watts

FEBRUARY

1st Nadia Elcock
2nd Barbara Lucchesi
3rd Amelia Rose Mandato
4th Peg Corcoran
12th Ruth Mason
16th Aaron Nehring
17th Kirsten Watts
19th Mary Lou Ekstrom
26th Carol Chalavoutis
26th Joshua Lucchesi

**Happy
Birthday!**

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

4th Charles & Barbara Lucchesi
21st Joe & Louise Fazzino
24th Matt & Karen Linhart

FEBRUARY

3rd Pete & Mary Lou Ekstrom
20th Brett & Melissa Rose

Humor for these times

Quarantine has turned us all into dogs.

We roam the house all day looking for food.

We are told "no" if we get too close to strangers.

And we get really excited about car rides.

