

Bricks Without Straw

SUFFICIENT PREACHING REQUIRES SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:17

"The preacher should be completely dedicated to God, full of the grace of the Holy Spirit, of love and of divine Wisdom. He should take himself outside himself, be wholly involved in what he is expressing..."

Girolamo Savonarola

I love preaching! This should be obvious to all, but what may not be so obvious is how difficult preparing about 150 sermons a year can be. Sometimes it can be difficult to find the time to adequately prepare. It can feel like trying to make bricks without straw. Pulpit ministry is awesome, but exhausting. It is exhilarating but humbling. It never stops and I rarely feel sufficiently prepared.

Here are some thoughts and some of my favorite quotes on the necessity of preparation for preaching:

1. Biblical preaching requires biblical preparation.

I am not a prophet. I do not speak directly from God. Because of this, I need to study to make sure that I understand the passage that I am preaching and that I can clearly communicate what is being said in the text. Archibald Alexander once said, "He who would 'rightly divide the word of truth' must, unless he be inspired, diligently and for a long time study the Bible. He should study it with all the aids which can be obtained, human and divine. The body cannot be dissected by one who has never studied anatomy."

It may seem that I am just standing up and talking off the top of my head ($\mu\eta \ \gamma \in \nu o \iota \tau o$), but in reality, each sermon is the result of careful language work, theological thought, and hopefully some really nice alliteration. You wouldn't want your surgeon to just "wing it," would you?

2. Biblical preaching requires soul preparation.

It is not enough to study the text, to understand it and then to organize into an outline. Before my sermon can be prepared, my heart must be prepared. If I am not affected by the study of God's word, how could I expect any affectation in my hearers?

Kenneth MacRae understood this better than most. He said, "My freedom in public does not depend on my thoroughness in preparation but upon the spirituality of my mind. Is it not then my wisdom to give more attention to the preparation of the heart before services?" He also said, "Oh to live nearer to Him and to be less called away by multitudinous duties eating away all my time! A cold pulpit is the natural fruit of it."

3. Biblical preaching requires urgent preparation.

I am very aware of the fact that people are looking to me to tell them the truth, and that they may very well make life decisions based on what comes out of my mouth. I keenly feel the point made by Richard Baxter when he said, "In the name of God, brethren, labor to awaken your hearts before you come, and when you are in the work, that you may be fit to awaken the hearts of sinners. Remember,

they must be awakened or damned. And a sleepy preacher will hardly awaken them... Speak to your people as to men that must be awakened either here or in hell." Lord, please continue to impress upon my heart the absolute importance of biblical preaching.

J. C. Ryle was well-known as an effective preacher. He said, "If we had only to read services and minister sacraments, to wear a peculiar dress and go through a round of ceremonies, and bodily exercises, and gestures, and postures, our position would be comparatively light. But this is not all. We have got to deliver our Master's message—to keep back nothing that is profitable—to declare all the counsel of God. If we tell our congregations less than the truth or more than the truth, we may ruin forever immortal souls. Life and death are in the power of the preacher's tongue."

Please pray for me that I would have the organizational ability, spiritual power and disciplined courage to prepare effectively for every sermon.

1 Corinthians 16:24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen. Pastor Dom

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Save the Date! Kids' Camp July 15-19





Photos courtesy of Sally Wood and Charlene Vandusen.





Speed

Kindergarten:

1st: Jenson Lighty 2nd: Aryo Lauerano 3rd: Billy Lehr

1st grade:

1st: Makayla Cheuvront 2nd: Quinn Stough 3rd CJ Dutterer

2nd grade:

1st: Brinley Bowman 2nd: Skye Leonard 3rd: CJ Edie

Design

Kindergarten:

1st: Benjamin White 2nd: Elsie Osladil 3rd: Teagan Swanger

First Grade:

1st: Claire Stough 2nd: Colton Hempfing 3rd: Journee Panzer

2nd grade:

1st: Piper Fritz 2nd: Austin Daugherty 3rd: Nora Dellosso

Family FUN NIGHT

\$30/family

- Miniature Golf
- Go-Carts
- Laser Tag
- Kids' Play Area

... AND MORE!

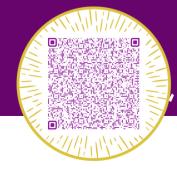
TUESDAY, MAY 7 **7PM TO 9PM**

This is an evening for families with kids of all ages to spend time together, laugh, and create memories!

This is open to families outside of CBC as well, so please invite your friends!

Sign up in the foyer or by scanning the QR code!

Contact Hannah Greene with questions at hgreenecbc@gmail.com



Ministry Updates

The church was filled with joy on Easter morning, with approximately 690 people attending!



Photos courtesy of Amy Gilford.



The teens had a great time at their Nerf war event, where the hallways of CBC were transformed into a battleground! Zoom in to see some of these intense facial expressions! It was 11 on 10, lots of fun and chaos, with Nerf balls and darts flying everywhere, lots of craziness, lots of screaming like little children and scaring each other. We had four hours of playtime! Bragging rights for all!







Photos courtesy of Becky Callahan.

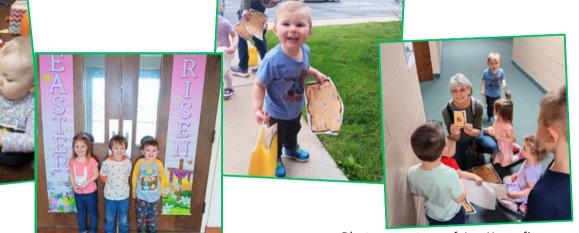
The Latest News! Shepherd's Fold



Thank you to everyone that donated towards our Easter gifts and egg hunt! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to fully cover the cost of each child's stuffed Jesus doll and book about salvation. Our prayer is that God will use these simple gifts to minister to the hearts of our children and their families.

On Thursday before Easter, each class did an Easter egg hunt. They followed clues to find their





Photos courtesy of Joy Hempfing.

Our next big event is the St. Jude Trike-a-thon which teaches our students both important bike safety lessons and life lessons about helping those in need. At the end of April, our students will ride their bikes around a special track to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Last year, we raised over \$2,000. We hope to reach or exceed our goal of \$2,500 this year.

As we look ahead to summer and the 2024-2025 school year, we praise God for the many ways he has provided for both our staffing and financial needs. Please continue to pray for our current staff to be encouraged and for God to lead more staff to our center. We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

3-year-olds Teacher - Must be able to be left alone with children and willing to work 5 days a week from at least 9-2

Toddler Teacher - Must be able to lift children, sit on the floor with children and work 5 days a week from at least 9-2

Substitute - Called on an "as needed" basis. Make your own hours/availability. Must be flexible and willing to work with all different ages.





2024 Women's Gonference

Saturday, April 6, 2024 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

LADIES: \$35

TEEN GIRLS: \$30

(Full price includes breakfast, lunch, and Create & Elevate sessions.)





It's not too late to sign up!



Check out the Women at Risk (WAR) International Boutique and Thrive Ministry tables!

warinternational.org
thrivepa.org

When we discover the themes of what a faith-filled life looked like before, during, and after the time of Christ, we see how Scripture points us to honor God in an active life of faith.

Calvary Bible Church 603 Wilson Avenue Hanover, PA 17331 717.632.3954 cbchanover.org © cbchanover

f Calvary Bible Church



Scan QR code to register

-or-

Register online at cbchanover.org -> Give -> Women's Conference

-or-

click **HERE** if viewing digitally!

Payment due upon registration.

Tell your friends!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

APRIL 7

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE AM SERVICE

CBC members, please plan to stay and affirm compensation adjustments for our pastors. Direct all questions by April 5 to elders@cbc-hanover.org.

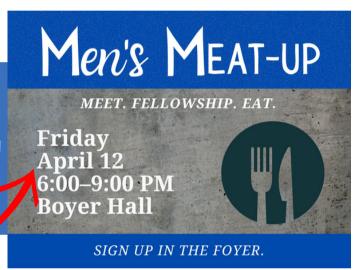


Save the Dates!

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, June 4, 7:00 PM Men's Summit: Friday—Saturday, September 13–14

Visit the Men's Ministry Activity Table for more upcoming events!!

New Date!



CBC Membership Classes Start in April!

A four-session class starts Sunday, April 7 at 9:30 AM. Come learn about CBC and find out what it means to be member!

> Call or email the office to sign up: 717-632-3954 office@cbc-hanover.org

Calling All Kids Grades 1-6 who like to sing and act

We will be preparing a children's musical at CBC throughout the next few months to be shared in the early fall. Sign-ups will begin on April 14 in the foyer, and we plan to have a parent meeting on April 28 to share about the musical, look over the the practice schedules, and answer any questions. Rehearsals will begin on May 5th, which will be the final date to sign up. We hope you can join us!





Date	Day	Time	Event	Room
2	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
3	Wednesday	9:30 AM	Ladies' Fellowship Bible Study	112
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	Awana Club Night	
		6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study: How Grim the Darkness	Sanctuary
		6:30 PM	Adult English Classes	
		6:30 PM	GriefShare	122
6	Saturday	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Women's Conference - Speaker Micah Maddox	СВС
7	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School, Infant–Adult	
		9:30 AM	Welcome & Membership Class	122
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		12:00 PM	Special Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
		3:00 PM	Perspectives Class	112
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
9	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
10	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Ladies' Prayer Time	Off Site
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	Awana Club Night	
		6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study, Adult English Classes, GriefShare	
11	Thursday	6:30 PM	Elder Meeting	Mathias Ctr
12	Friday	6:00 PM	Men's Meat-Up	Boyer Hall
13	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pins & Needles	122

April Calendar

Date	Day	Time	Event	Room
14	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School, Infant–Adult	
		9:30 AM	Welcome & Membership Class	122
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		3:00 PM	Perspectives Class	112
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
16	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
17	Wednesday	9:30 AM	Ladies' Fellowship Bible Study	112
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	Awana Club Night	
		6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study, Adult English Classes, GriefShare	
19	Friday	5:00 PM	Calvary Ambassadors Event: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner	Off Site
	Friday- Saturday	8:00 PM- 7:00 AM	Midnight Madness: Teen All-Nighter	CBC
21	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School, Infant–Adult	
		9:30 AM	Welcome & Membership Class	122
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		3:00 PM	Perspectives Class	112
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
23	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122
24	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Ladies' Prayer Time	Off Site
		6:15 PM	Teen Group	104
		6:30 PM	Awana Club Night	
		6:30 PM	Adult English Classes, GriefShare	



Date	Day	Time	Event	Room
25	Thursday	6:30 PM	Elder Meeting	Mathias Ctr
27	Saturday	9:00 AM	Pins & Needles	122
28	Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School, Infant–Adult	
		9:30 AM	Welcome & Membership Class	122
		10:30 AM	AM Worship Service	Sanctuary
		3:00 PM	Perspectives Class	112
		6:30 PM	PM Worship Service	Sanctuary
30	Tuesday	10:00 AM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	Precept Bible Study: Genesis Part 3	201
		6:30 PM	DivorceCare	122

CBC Market place

You're Invited - Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of York County's annual banquet will be held on Friday, May 17 at the Wyndham Garden in West York. For free tickets, or to sponsor a table, contact Stuart Mason (717-229-6940), or call the CEF office at 717-757-3212. Come to hear how you can help reach children in York County with the gospel.

Advice Needed - CEF of York County is considering purchasing a 12-passenger van for transporting children to Good News Clubs. We are looking for advice about what to look for, how much to pay, and how to find a dependable vehicle. If you can help us with this task, please call Stuart Mason at 717-229-6940 or Tom Long at 717-632-1513.