



# The Calkins Baptist Beacon

A ministry of the Calkins Baptist Church, P.O. Box 100 Milanville, PA

The Calkins Baptist Beacon

Volume 9 Issue 2

## In God We Trust! Part #1

*The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those*

Our U.S. Treasury records that "...on July 30, 1956, the President approved a Joint Resolution of the 84th Congress, declaring *IN GOD WE TRUST* the national motto of the United States." These four simple words have graced many of our coins since the 1860's and have been inscribed on our paper money since 1957.

When we consider such a simple and powerful motto, several questions come to mind. First, *In what God should we trust?* After all, Americans worship many different gods today. Second, *Is any one God in particular worthy of our trust?* If, as some believe, God is merely a being we create, it might not matter much who or what we worship. If, however, as the Bible clearly teaches, God created us, than truth is at stake in our worship. Third, *If there is a True God, have we sinned too greatly against Him to be forgiven?* Though the United States of America has been greatly blessed by God in ways too numerous to count, it is also clear to the spiritually discerning that our national

sins are abundant.

From the sad chapter in our history in which slavery was an officially recognized institution, to the removal of prayer and Bible reading from our public schools, to the devaluation of the God-ordained family unit – and even life itself – our sins are horrific in God's sight.

The message of the ancient Hebrew Prophet Jeremiah provides us with fresh hope that God would indeed be merciful to us if we would but turn from our wicked ways and return once again to our Creator and Savior. **Jeremiah 18:7-8** says:

*At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and ... a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them.*

We have great reason to once again place our trust in God. Yet, the question remains: **In which God should we trust?** On September 11, 2001, the smoldering ruins of planes, buildings, and

human lives all bore abundant testimony to the truth that indeed, it DOES matter what one believes about God! We must never forget that the terrorists who viciously attacked and murdered several thousand innocent men, women, and children did so in the name of their god!

Travel the world and you will see whether or not it matters who or what people worship. Go to the Communist countries where atheism rules the land, and see the oppression there. Go to the Muslim countries where the religion of Islam dominates, and you will find religious persecution there. Go to countries such as India, where Hinduism holds great sway in society, and watch how the poor and oppressed are treated there. It does matter what you believe!

With all our faults, few would deny that this land has been for many generations a beacon of hope and freedom to the world. Yet, in spite of all our blessings, many of us—from all political backgrounds and walks of life—have a strange sense that, as a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Revival Meetings with John Van Gelderen Aug. 29-Sept. 5th

This year's annual revival meetings at Calkins Baptist Church will begin on August 29th and will end on September 5th. The evangelist for these meetings will be John Van Gelderen. Services start at 7:00 PM.

After receiving a bachelors and a masters degree in Bible from Bob Jones University (BJU), Brother Van Gelderen recently earned a doctorate degree in Pastoral Theology from BJU in 2008. Since beginning full-time evangelism in 1992, Dr. Van Gelderen and his wife Mary Lynn have traveled many miles throughout the United States and around the world proclaiming the Gospel and teaching believers the necessity of a true spiritual awakening in both our personal and corporate worship.

An avid reader, scholar, and author of several books and articles, Dr. Van Gelderen serves as the president of Preach the Word Ministries and publishes many varied materials through this ministry including a periodical called *Revival*. He also serves as the Vice President of Baptist College of Ministry in Menomonee Falls, WI.

Mary Lynn, an accomplished pianist and vocalist, serves alongside of her husband by producing music recordings, piano arrangements, and providing special music in their revival meetings.

She was also Pastor Erik Hanson's first piano teacher and the first influential musician in his life. John led Pastor Erik's father to the Lord, and helped him grow much in his walk with God. The Hansons are very thankful for the work God has done in their family through the Van Gelderen's ministry! All are welcome and a



## Vacation Bible School Coming Up: June 21-25!

On June 21st-25th, Calkins Baptist Church will be hosting their annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children of all ages. The title of this year's VBS is *Sea Quest* and the theme is "diving for God's treasures." Every year 80-100 children come out for VBS excited to learn more about God's Word. Segregated by grades, each group participates in its own crafts, games, Bible lesson, song time, and missionary story suitable for their ages. All of the activities last from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.. Much work and thought goes into all of the organization and preparation of all of these activities. Children come blessed and excited every year to

learn more about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to enjoy godly fellowship one with another through Christ-centered and edifying activities. Please be sure to come out and dive with us as we search for more of God's treasures through His Word!

For



*Puppets are always a hit at VBS!*

## In God We Trust! (continued from page 1)

nation, we have somehow lost our way! Instinctively, we know that the country we inherited from our forefathers is not the same as the one we are passing down to our children. *Where did we go wrong? Could it be that we – by in large – have stopped trusting in God – the One True God of our forefathers?* Further, have our forefathers left us any clues as to the God Whom we should seek?

In this article, I intend to show that faith of

between the Netherlands and Spain.

Thus, the Separatists (who we call Pilgrims today) did not originally come to this land for religious freedom (for they had that in Holland). *Instead, these loyal followers of Christ came to these shores in order to build a Christian society to raise their families for God, and – for a second reason that was taking shape in their minds – to follow God’s call to be a light for the Gospel to the rest of*

The opening words of the historic document called *The Mayflower Compact* are as follows:

We whose names are underwritten having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one

of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body

*Travel the world and you will see whether or not it matters who or what people worship.*

politick. [Emphasis added]

many of the forefathers who founded the United States was – to a high degree – placed in the God of the Bible. Further, I will argue that this Christian heritage dominated American thought and life for many years and was one of the major reasons for God’s exaltation of the republic. Finally, I will explore how these truths hold meaning for this generation.

Although their Christian faith did not make our founders perfect and faultless; nevertheless, their roots in the God of the Bible and the teachings found in His Holy Word guided them in shaping the United States into the one nation that above all others represents freedom in the world. Yet, some would say that the U.S. NEVER WAS a Christian nation..

Consider first the influence of the Pilgrims who settled in New England. In the early 1600’s, King James expected all of his subjects to be part of the Church of England. Thus, many in that day attended church with no loyalty to God, but simply to obey the law. This resulted in much hypocrisy and deadness in religion. Some rightly saw the corruption within the church and sought to purify it by leaving many of the ritualistic practices of the Church of England for a greater simplicity and loyalty to pure biblical doctrine. Such people were mockingly called Puritans.

Still others in England believed the official church to be too corrupt to repair. These people believed that God called them to separate completely from the state church. Such Christians were called Separatists. These people were thought to be dangerous by King James, and as a result of his persecution against them, a congregation of Separatists fled to the Netherlands in 1609 for refuge.

After living in Holland for a few years, several problems began to surface. 1) The men were forced to work 12-15 hours a day, and thus had little time with their families. 2) Their children were unhappy and were being tempted with the worldly practices of the people around them. 3) They were losing their English heritage. 4) There was talk of war

*the world.*

As this small handful of dedicated Christians began their historic journey, it did not seem at first that God’s hand of blessing was upon them. The group was to sail on two ships: the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell*, but due to the fact that the *Speedwell* started taking on water, both ships had to return to port and the passengers had to try to crowd on the *Mayflower* alone. Some had to stay behind, including the congregation’s pastor.

The problems with the *Speedwell* also cost valuable time, and now the overcrowded *Mayflower* ran into severe weather in the Atlantic. The tightly packed passengers were forced to remain below deck for many days as the little ship was tossed off course by the violent storms. At one point the winds became so powerful that the main mast broke. Once again, it seemed that the little group would be forced back to England, but the Pilgrims had packed a crank which they used to hoist the mast back in place. After the huge timber was secured, the journey continued.

Due to the tempestuous seas, the ship was blown off course and eventually landed far north of their planned destination. The sailors recognized the area as Cape Cod, a region outside of their charter agreed to back in England. The pilgrims on the *Mayflower* came to realize that this was not a mere accident: God had brought them to this location.

Since many of the passengers were not Pilgrims – or even true Christians – there was talk on board of anarchy. Some said that because they were outside of their charter’s jurisdiction, they would leave and live as they pleased with no laws to govern them. Realizing the danger of such a plan in this harsh new world, the Pilgrims and the other men of wisdom on board made an agreement that consisted of a new concept: *free government by mutual consent of the governed*. Thus, from the very outset of the founding of New England, free government was the pattern God established for this land!

The pattern these men were following in the compact was the pattern of Congregational Church Government that they had earlier established in their Separatist church! Thus, the seed of free government that would ripen into our *Declaration of Independence* and eventually our *U.S. Constitution* was planted out of a desperate situation on a tiny ship, delayed and blown off course by the all-wise hand of a loving God!

Ten years later, a group of Puritans was on its way to America. In a sermon before their arrival, John Winthrop (later to become the first governor of Massachusetts) stated:

For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken...we shall be made a story and a by-word throughout the world. We shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God...We shall shame the faces of many of God’s worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us til we be consumed out of the good land whither we are going.

Clearly, key leaders who were used by God

*(Continued on page 3)*

... and thank You for grills, hotdogs, and hamburgers! They sure beat microwaves!



**Who Said It? Part #1**

1. "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty ... of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."
2. "I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses ... Whether we look to the first charter of Virginia ... or to the Charter of New England ... or to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay ... or to the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut ... the same objective is present ... a Christian land governed by Christian principles. I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under law, and the reservation of powers to the people. . . . I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion. I like also

1. 1st Chief Justice of U.S. Supreme Ct., the Honorable John Jay 2. Supreme Ct. Justice Earl Warren

**In God We Trust! (continued from page 2)**

to have major influence upon early America were God-fearing Christians who sensed a God-ordained destiny for this nation.

On March 4th, 1681, a Christian named William Penn secured a patent for the land we now call Pennsylvania. Penn felt God called him to establish a government there based upon Christian principles. He said:

There may be room there for such a Holy Experiment. For the Nations want a precedent and my God will Make it the Seed of a Nation. That an example may be set up to the Nations. That we may do the thing that is truly wise and just." [Emphasis added]

The reader must choose whether he will believe Penn's prophecy to be mere luck, or truly from God, but no one will be able to deny that Penn's words were proven true as both our *Declaration of Independence* and our *U.S. Constitution* were both adopted in the city Penn helped to found: Philadelphia.

Penn made another statement that the reader may find interesting:

If thou wouldst rule well, thou must rule for God, and to do that, thou must be ruled by

Him...Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants." [Emphasis added]

**Acts 17:26 states that God ...**

**... has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, ... has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings...."**

Thus, it is clear that God brought this nation into being at His appointed time, and that He determined the boundaries of this beautiful land in which we live. This shows His grace and goodness to us.

Though God's hand of guidance has always been there for our nation, even good men have not always been willing to follow it. Though God granted the founders of our Republic great wisdom in organizing the United States of America and establishing its Constitution, the majority of men at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 felt compelled to compromise with the southern delegates over the issue of slavery.

Thinking that the "peculiar institution" as they called it would eventually die out, our Constitution was adopted with one major flaw -

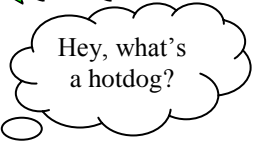
(Continued on page 4)

# Coming Events

**June—**  
 21-25—Vacation Bible School  
 27—Family Night

**July —**  
 4—Happy Independence Day!  
 11—Special services with Mark Johnson  
 15—Semi-annual Business Meeting  
 25—Family Night

**August—**  
 22—Family Night



Yes Dear, this is the big one that did

**Meetings with John Van Gelderen**

**29-Sept. 5—Re- vival**



Why don't you go play "Niagara Falls" with your father?



## In God We Trust! (continued from page 3)

allowance for slavery. It seemed at first that the founders' hopes would be realized, as in the early days of our nation slave labor did not prove to be overly advantageous. However, with Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, the labor-intensive but highly profitable cotton market paved the way for the "peculiar institution" to find new life. Slavery was here to stay – or at least – it would not go away without a fight.

For over 70 years the issue lay within our young republic – like a cancer – sometimes swelling to a national crisis, while at other times lying dormant for a period of time. **Always during those years, slavery was an abomination before God!**

Sadly, Christians were divided over the issue. One can only wonder how much pain could have been avoided had God's people seen the right clearly and stood up for it. Though we cannot change the past, we all need God's wisdom and guidance now as much as believers did in the days before our Civil War.

Though our leaders, our citizens, and even our soldiers have been far from perfect; God

has been merciful and gracious time and again during times of great danger. **Psalm 44:3** states the fact that Israel was given their land by the hand of a good and loving God.

*For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, ... the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.*

Can we not say the same about the land God has given to us? In spite of our many failures, God has been gracious to give us this beautiful place in which we dwell. **Psalm 33:16,18** teaches a similar concept: that God determines the outcome of every battle.

*No king is saved by the multitude of an army;  
A mighty man is not delivered by great strength... the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, ... who hope in His mercy,*

Thus, the protection we have experienced in times of conflict has been a result of God's kindness to us. Yet, it would seem reasonable to ask: "Why has the Lord seen fit to bless our military throughout so much of our history?

Though the answer to this question lies ultimately in the mind of God, **1 Samuel 2:30** contains an important principle: **"those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."**

Interestingly, the words to our Navy hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, do not reflect the politically correct spirit of our age where all gods are equated with the One True God of the Bible. Instead this song reflects an outspoken faith in the basic Christian doctrine of the Trinity! Consider the words to this hymn and the statements of faith that it contains.

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at Thy word,  
Who walked 'st on the foaming deep,  
and calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
Oh hear us when we cry to Thee

(Continued on page 5)

## Who Said It? - Part #2 Answers at the End of the Article

- 1) "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?"
  - 2) "One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law. . . . There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations. . . . I verily believe Christianity necessary to the support of civil society."
  - 3) ". . . Free government is not a self-moving machine. . . . Our mission of freedom is not carried out by brute force, by canon law, or any other law except the moral law and those Christian principles . . . found in the Scriptures."
  - 4) [I] have said enough to show that Christianity came to this country with the first colonists; has been powerfully identified with its rapid development, colonial and national, and today exists as a mighty factor in the life of the republic. This is a Christian nation. . . . [T]he calling of this republic a Christian nation is not a mere pretense, but a recognition of an historical, legal, and social truth."
  - 5) "This is a Christian Nation. More than a half century ago that declaration was written into the decrees of the highest court in this land."
  - 6) "This is a Christian country – it was founded by Christians and built on broad Christian principles. Threatening? Far from it. It is in precisely this Christian country that Jews have known the most peaceful, prosperous, and successful existence in their long history."
  - 7) "If America abandons its Judeo-Christian values basis and the central role of the Jewish and Christian Bibles (its Founders' guiding text), we are all in big trouble, including, most especially, America's non-Christians. Just ask the Jews of secular Europe. . . . Too many Americans do not appreciate the connection between American greatness and American Christianity."
  - 8) "Jews ... must oppose revisionist efforts to deny our nation's Christian heritage, must stand against the drive to decouple our laws from Judeo-Christian ethics, and must counter attacks on public expressions of the religion of most Americans – Christianity. Jews are safer in a Christian America than in a secular America."
  - 9) "Without a vibrant and vital Christianity, America is doomed, and without America, the west is doomed."
- Which is why I, an Orthodox-
- 1) Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the U.S.
  - 2) U.S. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story (1779-1845). He also wrote the book: *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States* and is considered the founder of the Harvard Law School .
  - 3) U.S. Supreme Ct. Justice John McLean (1785-1861)
  - 4) U.S. Supreme Ct. Justice David Brewer (1837-1910)
  - 5) U.S. President Harry S. Truman
  - 6) Jeff Jacoby, a Jewish columnist at the *Boston Globe*
  - 7) Dennis Prager, a Jewish national columnist and popular talk show host
  - 8) Don Feder, a Jewish columnist and long time writer for the *Boston Herald*
  - 9) Orthodox Rabbi Daniel



# In God We Trust! (continued from page 4)

(Continued from page 4)

For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
And bid its angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea!

O Trinity of love and power!

Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.  
[Emphasis added]

The single bloodiest war in which our nation has ever been embroiled is our own Civil War. Both North and South had wronged each other repeatedly, but one problem rose above them all: that "peculiar institution" – the national sin of slavery.

President Abraham Lincoln, in his 2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural Address may have stated it best when he linked Christ's words from **Matthew 18:7** with God's just punishment upon the nation for the sin of slavery. He stated:

***"Woe unto the world because of offences!***  
*for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"* If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a

Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope--fervently do we pray--that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if

God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none: with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us

land, would such remarks be tolerated, or would these concepts be dismissed out of hand as "out of the mainstream," wildly religious, and even unconstitutional? 2) If Lincoln's words made sense to his listeners (so much sense that they inscribed them inside the Lincoln Memorial) does this not show the dominating influence of Christian thought in America up through the 1860's?

One might wonder if Lincoln's words and their obvious positive impact a mere fluke of American culture, or was our heritage truly Christian? Consider the following quote and its source:

*"Yet, if God wills that it [the Civil War] continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether." President Abraham Lincoln in his 2nd Inaugural Address*

to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan--to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with All nations. [Emphasis added]

President Lincoln's words (posted for all to see inside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.) stir up a couple of questions in my mind. 1) If a U.S. President today quoted the Bible, and drew such powerful comparisons with our national sins and God's hand of judgment upon your

Our laws and institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teaching of the Redeemer of mankind [i.e. Jesus Christ]. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian . . . this is a Christian nation."

This is an excerpt from an 1892 decision by our Supreme Court! Do not believe the lie that our nation's heritage is NOT Christian!

Though some may try to deny our Christian heritage and remove it from our textbooks,

*All Scripture quotes are from the Holy Bible: New King James Version. All emphasis in verses is added.*

## Did You Know...?

- 1) In 1860—262 of 288 presidents of all the American colleges were ministers of the gospel.
- 2) In 1860—Over 1/3 of all university faculty members were also ordained ministers!
- 3) In an 1890 Survey of State Universities conducted by James Angell (President of the University of Vermont and the University of Michigan)
  - \* Over 90% of State Universities had chapel services.
  - \* 50% required chapel attendance!
  - \* 25% required church attendance!
- 4) Dr. Benjamin Rush: Signer of the Declaration and called the father of public

schools under the Constitution wrote: *Use of the Bible in Schools: A Letter by Dr. Benjamin Rush*. In this letter he said:

- \* If the Bible were ever removed from the public schools, there would be an explosion of crime.
  - \* "[T]he Bible . . . should be read in our schools in preference to all other books."
- 5) Gouverneur Morris, the man who wrote the polished language of the Constitution, and is called, "The penman of the Constitution" said:
    - \* "Religion is the only solid basis of good morals, therefore, education should teach the precepts of religion and the duties of man toward God."

- 6) Noah Webster, who helped with the wording of the Constitution, was an educator, and authored scores of textbooks said:

- \* "The genuine source of correct republican principles [i.e. principles of a republic] is the Bible. . ."
- \* The education of youth lays the foundations on which



Remember children, the U.S. never was a Christian nation!

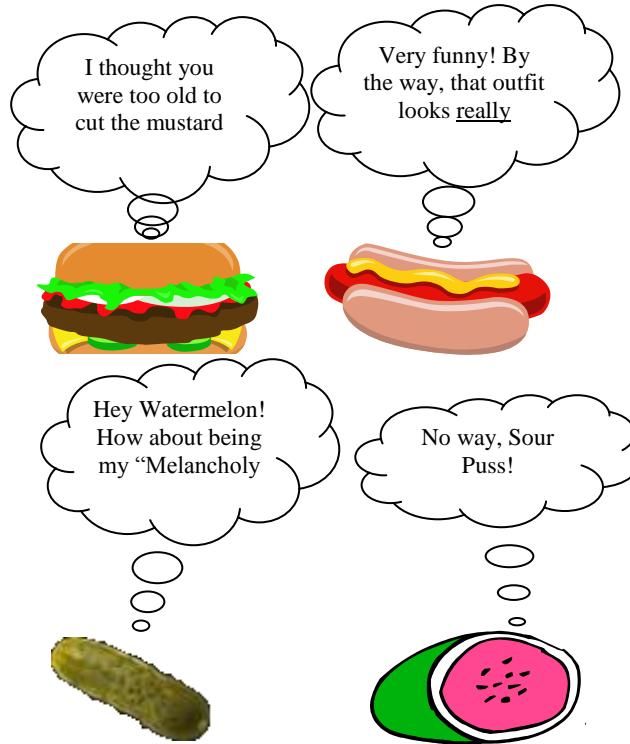
both law and



**Inside this Issue:**

In God We Trust!	1
Revival Meetings with John Van Gelderen Aug 30– Sept 5	1
Vacation Bible School Scheduled for June 21-25	1
Johnny & Susie	2
Coming Events	3
Who Said It? Part #1	3
Who Said It? Part #2	4
Did You Know?	5

**Hidden Conversations at a**



*Our Service Times*

*Sunday*

*8:30 AM Morning Service  
9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Service  
6:30 PM Evening Service*

*Wednesday*

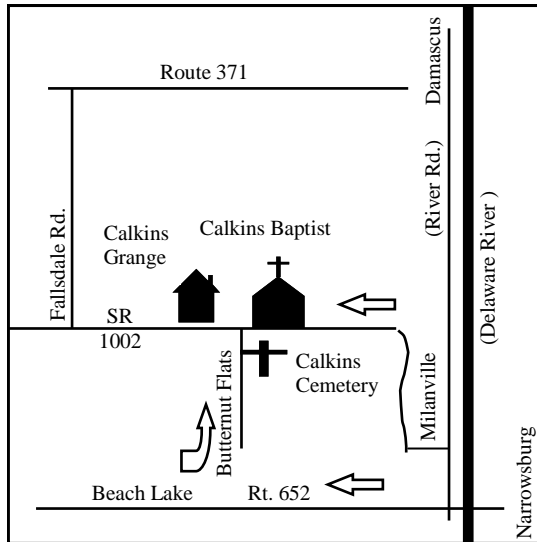
*6:30 PM Buckaroo Club  
Proteens  
Bible Study*

*Come Join Us!*

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Beach Lake, PA  
Permit No. 5

**The Calkins Baptist Beacon**  
PO Box 100  
Milanville, PA 18443

**Postal Patron**



**Confused? For directions or more information, call: 570-729-8075**

Honesdale