

ELVATON Church

8422 Elvaton Road
Millersville, MD 21108
410-647-5333, www.elvaton.net
Return Service Requested

Pastor, Christopher Rice
Cpr.925@gmail.com

Youth Minister, Paul May
Paulmmay@hotmail.com

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Permit #113

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering National Goal: \$175 million

Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 4-11, 2011

Our church goal: \$4,500

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bill & Karen Itzel In Concert Elvaton Baptist Church December 4, 2011, 5:30 pm

A lot of Christian bands and singers have come and gone over the past 20 years, but the Itzels have stood the test of time. Bill and Karen, along with their three children, Jessica, Ryan, and Shannon Bailey have now been touring full-time for over 23 years, and yet, after over 48 recordings, 250 original songs and 3000 concerts, they are more relevant than ever.

Bill has appeared on the Gaither Homecoming videos, has been nominated for 2 Grammy and 2 Dove awards, and has headlined concerts for over 40,000 people, but still feels led to minister in local church settings. Their concerts always have a strong family emphasis. Bill and Karen Itzel are singers/songwriters who are committed to Christ, committed to truth, and committed to excellence.

Come join us for a wonderful evening of gospel music and be truly blessed!



The Ladies Christmas Party Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm.

Ladies...Come out for a fun filled night of Fellowship, Wonderful Food, Crafts, Games and Singing. Let's all celebrate the birth of Jesus together. Bring A Dish to Share , a Canned Good, a Gift (\$10) to exchange and **Bring a Friend.**

Cookie Swap, December 11th



Bring your favorite cookies to swap with one another and have a delicious variety for the holidays. Meet in the fellowship hall immediately following morning Worship Service. There is a sign up sheet with instructions on bulletin board or you may call Kevin Zonn or church office for more details.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Come celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Saturday, December 24th at 7 p.m. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this wonderful service as we sing praises to our Lord & Savior, commemorate the Lord's Supper, and close with the lighting of the candles.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord”. (KJV)

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Outreach



Choose a card from the bulletin board to adopt a family. Instructions are included in the card you select. You will be responsible for purchasing perishable food items for your family. Non-perishable food items and angel tree gifts (if children in your family) will be ready for pickup Sunday, December 19th, at noon. If you have further questions you may call the church office at 410-647-5333 or email Paulette@ideaweaver.com.

Angel Tree



We will also be collecting toys, books, art sets, school supplies, games, socks, mittens, hats, gloves and gifts for ages 2-16 years old. Look for the GIANT collection box in foyer. We are asking that toys be **NEW & UNWRAPPED** to make it easier to sort them for the appropriate families.

If you prefer, you may make a monetary donations. Please make your donations through the church and mark it for Christmas Outreach.

ELVATON FAMILY NEWS

November-December, 2011

www.elvaton.net

410-647-5333

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas once again, I am reminded of 2 Cor. 4:15 where the Spirit says,

"For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through many, may cause thanksgiving to abound the glory of God."

What a startling verse this is! Just before this verse, Paul says that we know that He who raised Jesus from the grave will also raise us up from the grave; and, he says after this verse that because of these things we do not lose heart even though our "outward man is perishing" - even though each of us is drawing daily closer to death.

Why? This life is not a slow march toward nothingness. This life is a slow march toward an eternal renewal, where we will be present with Christ in heaven. This life is not a slow march toward despair, but it is a slow march toward the day when we will receive exceeding and eternal joy.

This verse is so striking to me because it teaches me:

1. God has done everything that He has done in bringing about redemption in Christ "for your sake." What an amazing humbling thought, that He would do such things as being born of a poverty stricken teenage girl, living a hard life as a carpenter, being persecuted though all he ever did was good and sinless, and finally dying on a cross to bring "grace", unmerited favor, to such sinful people as you and I.

2. That which is "for your sake" is also that which is "to the glory of God. Those things which bring me the greatest benefit and God the most glory are not contrary to each other. They are like two railroad tracks running in exactly the same direction. And this is a great thought for me, because it means that I can receive the greatest gifts in the universe, the gifts that flow from His heart of love; and know that at the same time I am receiving them, God is receiving great glory. He is receiving worship, honor and praise and all those things that He is so rightly worthy of, and which my heart yearns for Him to have.

3. One way God is glorified by doing that which is "for your sake" is when we have abundant thanksgiving in our hearts.

This is the best news yet, for those of us who love Him. Why? Because it is such a wonderfully simple thing for us to live in a way that brings great glory to our God during the holidays and the normal days as well. All we need to do is remember to be a thankful people.

Thanksgiving, unfortunately, is not a popular thing in our day and time and never has been for those who don't know God. The atheist is Christopher Hitchens who just published the book titled *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*. He once debated Dinesh d'Souza, a writer and fellow at Hoover Institution at Stanford University. In this debate, Hitchens said that those of us who believe in the God of Christianity are "condemned to live in this posture of gratitude, permanent gratitude, to an unalterable dictatorship in whose installation we had no say." He clearly believed that this was a bad thing and his opinion undoubtedly reflects that of the world at large.

But in response we may say this: *Permanent, unalterable gratitude* to an infinitely glorious Creator who loves us is what we were made for. The fact that we had no say in our creation is what "creation" means. It's also what birth means. God doesn't give anyone the choice to be created or born. There is a lesson in that. *We are* dependent. That's not debatable. It's just the way it is. But if you embrace the reality of dependence and follow it all the way to the free gift of salvation through Christ, it is not *condemnation* but *liberation*. It does not feel disempowering to be called a "fellow-heir of God". And, I can hardly feel dis-empowered, frustrated, slighted, belittled or bitter when I truly grab hold of this truth, "For all things are for your sakes."

Let us live in happy dependence as His much loved children; and let us glorify Him much with thanksgiving in our hearts, today and forever.

God bless,
Pastor Chris



YOUTH & COLLEGE

Sunday Bible Study 9:15

Worship 10:45 am

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 9:15 am for a time of fun, teaching, and getting to know each other.

Visit our blog at elvatonyouth.blogspot.com to keep up with the latest youth news.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

From our house to yours we wish you a very merry Christmas. The youth department has many activities planned over the next few months. We desire to have your students involved in as many of our activities as possible.

We are selling Calendars for \$6 each and you can see any youth or Paul to order. The proceeds from this fundraiser are going straight to our Missions Trip this summer.

Our Youth Christmas party will be on Wednesday the 14th of December. We will have a \$10 gift exchange game, as well as food and fellowship. This will be a great time and we would love to see your student there.

Last we are gearing up for summer. Please be supportive of our group as we want EVERY student to be able to go to camp and the mission trip for as cheap as possible. Thank you in advance for your support and love for these students!

Paul and Trena May



ELVATON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY & WEE PRE -SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Kindergarten through Third grades will present "The Christmas Dolls"
December 13, 2011 at 7:00pm

Fourth through Eighth grades will present an Adventures in Odyssey
"The Boy Who Didn't Go To Church"
December 9, 2011 at 7:00pm

The Preschool program will present their Christmas Program
December 15, 2011 at 10:00am.

ECA will have their annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 18, 2011 at 12:00pm.

ECA will be closed November 21st - 25th for Thanksgiving.

ECA will be closed December 19th - January 2nd.

We will reopen on January 3, 2012.

Elvaton Christian Academy registration for 2012-2013 begins January 3, 2012



The Men and Boys Breakfast meet the first Saturday of the month at 8 am. Put the date and time on your calendar and come join us for a great breakfast and a time of Bible study. Invite a friend to come with you. Our next breakfast will be on December 4th.