



Calvary Herald

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Growing in Christ This Christmas

Christmas celebrates the greatest gift the human race has ever received—the gift of a Savior who came to be “Immanuel,” God with us. But sometimes, the busy flow of the Christmas season makes it hard for us to think deeply about what this gift means and how we should respond. That’s why we’d like to encourage you to utilize one of the other gifts that we’ve been given this year—unlimited access to the spiritual growth resources available through **RightNow Media**! RightNow Media offers thousands of videos that can deepen your perspective on issues like marriage and parenting, work and finance, scripture and theology, and much more. You can even find videos to entertain and educate your kids! And if you visit www.rightnowmedia.org/library/44, you’ll find a special collection of Christmas resources that include Bible studies, devotionals, and children’s cartoons. Of course, if you haven’t yet created your RightNow Media account, all you need to do is email Pastor Alex (pastoralex4@gmail.com), and he’ll send you instructions that will let you get started.



Christmas Missions Offering

When an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks at night, he announced “good news of great joy for all people.” And as those who’ve experienced that good news, we’ve been commissioned by our Savior to make sure that “all people” get a chance to hear it! That’s the goal of our Christmas Missions Offering—to participate prayerfully and financially in the work sharing the gospel around the world. Our goal for this year’s offering is \$3000; and as in years past, you can designate your gift to Andy and Cari Robertson (our missionaries to Chad), the Lottie Moon Offering of the Southern Baptist Convention, and/or the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. If you prefer, you can also leave your gift undesignated, and we’ll share it with all these participants.



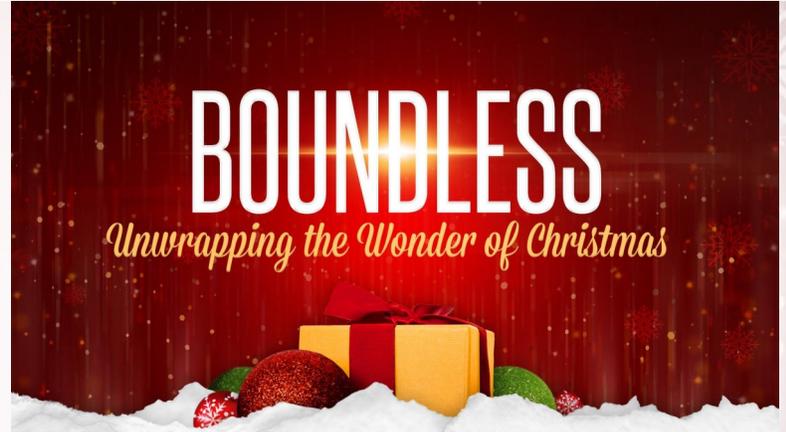
Christmas Post Office

Don't forget! The deadline to send Christmas cards to our homebound members using the "Christmas Post Office" is Sunday, December 19. Just write the recipient's name on the envelope of each card (an address is not required), and then deposit your cards in the boxes available in the sanctuary lobby and the hallway between the sanctuary and the educational building. We'll take care of the rest! Thank you for helping us stay connected to even those members of our church family who are unable to worship with us.



Calvary's Budget for 2022

Calvary's proposed budget for the 2022 fiscal year was presented and discussed at the church business meeting that was held on Sunday, November 14. A vote on the budget will take place by ballot without discussion in both the contemporary and traditional worship gathering on Sunday, December 12. If you didn't get a chance to see the budget and would like a copy—or if you have questions about the budget proposal—please contact a member of the Finance Committee: Benny Lisk, Tony Martin, Judy Mills, Karen Moser, Jan Varney, or Sheila Wilson.



Advent Sermon Series

Advent is a season of longing. As we prepare for the celebration of our Jesus's birth, we long to know the love, joy, and peace that He came to give. But especially in times like these, it can feel like the likelihood of experiencing these blessings is far too limited. Our lives are so busy; our budgets are stretched so thin; and our hearts are so burdened. How can we step beyond our constraints to kneel in life-changing wonder around the manger of Bethlehem's Child?

And yet, we need to remember that the good tidings of the first Christmas came to people who were every bit as "hemmed in" as we are. Facing political oppression, poverty, and the apparent absence of a word from the Lord, they nevertheless discovered that God was doing a new thing. He was sending a Savior who would release them from captivity and lead them into the endless freedom of His presence.

That's why our pastor's sermons in this holy season will focus on the theme, "Boundless: Unwrapping the Wonder of Christmas." By examining passages from the gospels and the New Testament letters, we'll be reminded of the Infinite Grace that sets us free and that satisfies our longing for love, joy, and peace. We hope you can worship with us.

Happy Anniversary, Teresa!

December 1, 2021 marks Teresa Martin's 9th anniversary as Calvary's Minister of Music. Please be sure to thank her for sharing her gifts and spirit with us—and for playing such a valuable role in the worship of our church.

~ Calvary's Personnel Committee



Gifts Given

and

Gifts to Come

Despite all the disruptions and challenges that our church family has experienced over the past year, one thing has remained remarkably stable: The incredible faithfulness with which so many of you have supported God's work among us with your tithes and offerings. Even though many of you have been unable to attend worship on a regular basis, you've found ways to be good stewards of God's financial blessings, whether by giving online or by sending your gifts to the church. Regardless of how you've done it, however, we now find ourselves in a position that we're not too far from meeting our budget for the year. And with your continued generosity, there's every reason to believe that we'll enter 2022 with a solid foundation for the new opportunities that we trust the Lord will send.

Please remember that in order for your offerings to be included in this fiscal year, they need to be given or postmarked no later than Friday, December 31st. And if you have an interest in making any special "end-of-year" gifts to Calvary—for the general work of the church or for a designated ministry—the members of our finance team would be happy to speak with you.

Thank you for allowing the Lord to use you as a channel for His blessing. May you be blessed in this Christmas season—and the coming year!

If you think all the way back to the fall of 2019, you might remember that Calvary received a significant grant that was intended to allow both our pastor and our church to share a sabbatical experience in the summer of 2020. In the months that followed, of course, the pandemic forced us to suspend those plans. But as we look to the year ahead, we're trusting that same Lord who gave us that gift will now make it possible for us to benefit from it.

You'll be hearing more about our "Rest, Reflect, Renew" emphasis in the coming months. And there will be plenty of opportunities for you to get more information and ask questions! For now, just be aware that as our pastor undertakes a time of travel and study to replenish his spirit, our church family will also be refreshed—by guest speakers, shared devotional experiences, special times of worship, and unique opportunities for fellowship. In addition, our congregation will be served by a seasoned interim preacher, who will ensure stable and vibrant ministry while our pastor is away.

We look forward to seeing the ways that God will move among us in the year ahead. Please join us in praying for His continued guidance.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Honor of Jan Varney by Lillie Mae Haynes
In Memory of William Haynes by Jim and Lilnette Phillips
In Memory of Betsy Phillips by Jim and Lilnette Phillips

Don't Miss These Christmas Celebrations!

Sunday, December 12th

- ◆ Calvary's Uplift Praise Band shares the hope, joy, love, and peace of the season with "*The Wonder of Advent*" during our contemporary worship gathering at 8:30 am.

Sunday, December 19th

- ◆ The Sanctuary Choir presents, "*One Small Child*," a musical for Christmas during our traditional service at 10:55 am.
- ◆ Calvary's kids present this year's Children's Christmas Pageant, "*Good News Ahead*," in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm.

Friday, December 24th

- ◆ Join us in the sanctuary at 5 pm for scripture, carols, candlelight, and a brief message about "*Boundless Spirit*" as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve.

