

Calvary *Herald*

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Come Celebrate the Savior!

As we move through the season of Advent and anticipate the joy of Christmas, the Calvary church family invites you to “Celebrate the Savior” through these special opportunities for worship:

- **Advent Sermon Series:** In our Sunday morning Advent worship this year, our pastor will be sharing, “*A Very Matthew Christmas*,” a message series that invites us to make our way to the cradle through the gospel. By looking at the coming of Jesus through the lens of his ministry, we hope to see with even greater clarity who he is and how his birth transforms our lives.
- **Choir Cantata:** In the traditional service on Sunday, December 7 (10:55 am), our sanctuary choir will present, “*A Noel Celebration*,” a wonderful cantata combining familiar carols with beautiful anthems celebrating the good news of Christmas. This year, our choir will be accompanied by an orchestra comprised of instrumentalists from North Surry High School and the Mount Airy community.
- **Uplift Christmas:** In the contemporary service on Sunday, December 14 (8:30 am), Calvary’s praise band will present, “*The Unexpected Messiah*,” a beautiful reminder that, to a world expecting a conquering king, Jesus came as a humble child to show us the nature of God’s love.
- **Children’s Christmas Pageant:** On Wednesday, December 17, Calvary’s kids will share a traditional nativity play at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Featuring the well-known characters of the Christmas story and filled with your favorite carols, the play reminds us that “out of the mouths of children, the Lord has ordained praise.” And after the play, everyone is invited to a reception in the fellowship hall featuring tasty treats.



- **Christmas Eve:** On Wednesday, December 24, the Calvary church family will gathering in the sanctuary at 5:00 pm to welcome the Christ child with “*Cloth for the Cradle*,” a service of Christmas Eve worship complete with scripture, carols, candlelight, and a special opportunity to “prepare a place” for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts.

We hope that you and your family will make plans to worship with us. And as always, we urge you to invite your friends to join us as we celebrate the Savior!

Christmas Missions

The Christ Child whose birth we celebrate each December grew to become the Savior who told his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations.” And while many of us will never get the chance to travel the globe, sharing the gospel, we can support those who do! That’s why, during the month of December, Calvary Baptist invites you to participate in our annual Christmas Offering for World Missions. This special collection plays a key role in allowing our church to participate in missionary efforts around the world. And this year, our goal for the offering is \$5000. As always, you can designate your gift to Andy and Cari Robertson, our missionaries in central Africa; the Lottie Moon Offering of the SBC, and/or the Global Missions Offering of the CBF. Alternatively, you can leave your gift undesignated, and we will divide it among all three recipients. Gifts can be made through the “Give Now” page of our church website or through the Sunday morning offering. Christmas offering envelopes can be found in the church information centers. The offering will close on December 31.



This Will Fit You to a T

Calvary’s Backpack Ministry Team is preparing to order t-shirts for the volunteers who deliver food each week to students in need at Franklin Elementary. However, because the entire Calvary family generously and faithfully supports this important work, we’d like to invite you to get one, too! The shirts were designed by Calvary’s kids. They run in sizes from Youth M to Adult XL, and the cost is \$11.70 per shirt. Adult shirts in 2XL and 3XL are also available for a small upcharge. If you want more information or wish to order a shirt, please contact Becky Critz (336/341-8249) or the church office. The deadline to place an order is Sunday, December 7.



Serving in Western NC

This fall, members of Calvary have been supporting hurricane relief efforts in western North Carolina. Through two short-term mission trips and an outpouring of financial support, we’ve been rebuilding the home of a woman who lost just about everything in the storms that battered our state in September of 2024. Thankfully, that project is almost complete. But we’ve got one more trip planned to put on some finishing touches. This trip is tentatively scheduled for December 17-19. If you’d like to sign-up or get more information, please contact Mike Francis (336/830-1655)



2026 Budget Vote

At the church business meeting on Sunday, November 9, participants had the opportunity to discuss the Finance Committee’s church budget proposal for 2026. Church members will be asked to vote on this proposal by ballot in both of our worship services on Sunday, December 7. If you were unable to attend the business meeting and would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office. And if you have any questions about the budget—we encourage you to connect with a member of the Finance Committee (Charlotte Hudson, Clay Nowlin, Clair Montgomery, Jan Varney, Robbie Gadner, or Judy Mills).

End of Year Giving

Calvary's Finance Committee would like to thank everyone in our church family for the faithful way that you've supported the ministry of our church this year with your tithes and offerings! Thanks to your generosity, we're ending 2025 with a solid fiscal foundation that will allow us to continue worshipping, growing, and serving in the year ahead. As you make your final contributions to the church this year, please remember:

1. To be included on your contribution statement for 2025, your gifts must be given, dated, or postmarked on or before December 31.
2. If you're 70 or older, you might be able to make contributions to the church (or other qualified charity) directly from your IRA, and they won't be taxed on your tax return. This counts towards meeting your required minimum distribution. For more information, discuss with your financial advisor.
3. If you're giving online, Calvary offers you the chance to "cover the administrative fee," which is just 2.5% of your total donation. If everyone checked the box for this option, it would save our church family several thousand dollars each year.

Special Schedule on Dec. 28

Because we want to make it as easy as possible for families to enjoy time together during the holiday season, Calvary will follow a special schedule on Sunday, December 28. In place of our normal gatherings, we will have Sunday School at 9:30 and one service of worship at 10:30.

Angel Tree Reminder

We are so grateful for all the individuals, families, and Sunday School classes who signed up to sponsor a child through this year's Angel Tree Ministry. Your generosity will bring joy to a local family this Christmas! As a reminder, your Angel Tree gifts must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 7. And to ensure that your gifts make it to the right child, one of the "gift tags" you were given must be placed inside your gift bag, and the other must be affixed firmly to the outside. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Varney (336/401-5640).

Thanks to Those Who Gave

Calvary wishes to thank everyone who gave gifts in memory and in honor these special people:

- *In Memory of Randy Collins:* Vernells Goins
- *In Memory of Howard Hull:* Jo Lynn Johnson, Johnny & Paulette Surratt, Roger & Carol Jarrell, Jim & Lilnette Phillips, Todd & Kim Beverly
- *In Memory of Lonnie Jackson:* Rachel Jackson
- *In Memory of Jerry Nowlin:* Mark & Leah Hauser
- *In Memory of Betsy Phillips:* Jim & Lilnette Phillips
- *In Memory of Pam Saunders:* Rachel Jackson
- *In Memory of Earl Shelton:* Vernell Goins
- *In Memory of Annie Thomas:* Claudy Bryant, Ruth Sunday School Class
- *In Honor of Hannah Robertson, Mike Francis, Lee Mills, Gray Shelton, Roger Keck:* Claudia Bryant

Dear Calvary...

Thank you! Your gift to the Praying Pelican Missions "Jamaica Disaster Relief" fund following Hurricane Melissa has already made a profound impact. Because of your generosity, our local staff and partners are swiftly providing essential aid, rebuilding materials, and spiritual encouragement when and where it's needed most. We are deeply grateful for your partnership!

Praying Pelican Missions

Thank you for your help during a very difficult time for my family. The meal provided after Randy's memorial service was truly an act of love for our family. We enjoyed it very much.

Dana, Dusty, and Amy Collins

Thank you for the outstanding job you did cleaning the Yokefellow food pantry on your "Servant Sunday." The windows sparkle and the floors shine! We are so grateful that you chose to bless our ministry with your hard work. Thanks for being God's hands and feet!

Yokefellow Ministry

