



# Calvary Herald

JULY 2021—VOLUME 52—ISSUE 7

## Youth On Mission

From July 18 to July 24, a team of 14 youth and adults from Calvary will be “on mission” with Jesus in Eolia, Kentucky—a small town in the Appalachian Mountains that sits right on the edge of the Kentucky/Virginia border. They’ll be working with “ECCO” (Eolia Christian Community Outreach), an organization that runs a food pantry and clothes closet. And during their trip, they’ll be serving in the ECCO ministry center, performing ministry projects in the community, visiting in homes, and providing sports camps for kids.

We’re grateful for the way that members of Calvary have already supported this trip by donating money and supplies that will be delivered to ECCO when our team arrives. But from now until the time that they return safely to Mount Airy, we ask you to continue supporting their mission by including them in your prayers. Please pray that the hearts of our team members—and the hearts of those they serve—will grow closer to God. And pray, too, that when the team heads home they’ll know the Lord better for themselves and will have shared His love effectively with others.

So that you can pray for the team members by name, here are the names of the individuals who’ll be making the trip: Alex Bracey, Choppy Cawley, Keaton Greene, Isaac Hawks, Kendall Hawks, Carter Hull, Eli Morrison, Kaleb Morrison, Emma Kate Norman, Jim Phillips, Lilnette Phillips, Natalie Puckett, Mason Varney, and Matheson Williams.



## Coming Soon to a Pulpit Near You...

When we think about the Old Testament prophets (IF we think about the Old Testament prophets), it can be easy to imagine them as strange people from a distant place and time whose lives have little to say to folks like us. After all, we face issues that—on the surface, at least—seem entirely different. However, the prophets were ordinary people, responding to everyday situations. And what made them “special” was their willingness to listen to God’s call as He spoke to them about His desires for the world. So, could it be that God is still looking for people who are ready to listen to His call?

That’s the question that we’ll be trying to answer in “**Prophet Margin: Everyday Investments in God’s Call,**” our pastor’s sermon series for July. After devoting Sunday, July 4, to a message on our freedom in Christ, Pastor Alex will invite us to consider three Old Testament prophets – and how *their* response to God can inspire and shape our own. We hope you can join us as we study and worship together.

# Sharing Water (Both Bottled and Living)

*Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be a spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.” (John 4:13-14)*

Let’s face it, Mount Airy gets hot in July. And while that can be difficult for everyone who lives here, it can present some unique challenges for those who are visiting our community and for those who are seeking to enjoy some outdoor recreation. That’s why Calvary is planning to help people “beat the heat” by doing a “Water Giveaway” on Saturday, July 17, from 9 AM to 11 AM. We’ll have two teams: one sharing water with people on Main Street, and the other offering cool refreshment to folks who are walking on the Greenway.

Now just to be clear, you don’t have to be an “evangelist” to do this ministry. Our primary goal isn’t to distribute tracts or to make gospel presentations. We just want to share the love of Christ in a practical way...and we’d like your help to do it! We’ll have some signup sheets available in Sunday School and worship, and we’ll invite you to register by email a little later in the month. Of course, you’re always welcome just to come out and join us. In some small way, let’s make our community a place filled with “gushing fountains of endless life.”



## A “Back to School” Blessing



Believe it or not, it won’t be too long before students will be heading back to school. And when they do, there will inevitably be some families who won’t be able to provide their kids with the kind of new clothes that make a new school year a source of anticipation. So we’re asking you to help us with a “Back to School Blessing.” We’re working with staff at Franklin Elementary to identify students in need, along with their clothing sizes and wish lists. At the same time, we’re seeking individuals, families, and classes here at Calvary who’d be willing to spend approximately \$100 per child to provide these children with an outfit they can wear with pride.

Now, what we’d really like is for you to shop for these kids. If you’re unable to visit the store and would prefer to participate by making a financial gift, we still want you to participate. But we also sense that there’s something powerful — not just in “funding” a blessing (although that’s a good thing) — but in investing the time and effort to “be” a blessing. Won’t it be good to know that you thought, prayed, and took action to help a student return to classes with his or her head held high?

We’ll be recruiting sponsors during Sunday School and worship later this month; and you can also sign up by calling the church office. We anticipate that purchased items will need to be returned to the church by early August, but we’ll have specific dates to share once we get more information from the staff at Franklin. Thank you for helping Calvary to “be a blessing” by continuing our ministry to some of our closest neighbors.

### A Word on COVID from the Pastor...

In many ways, Calvary has put the coronavirus behind us. But I know many still wonder: When will we sing hymns? Celebrate the Lord’s Supper? Get back to “normal”? Please know that I want “normal” as much as anyone! But since there are still infections locally (including within our own church), and since new COVID variants are spreading, and since we don’t know how many of our members are vaccinated...I encourage everyone to keep looking out for one another. Ultimately, of course, our deacons will make decisions about how to proceed. But you can help! If you haven’t been vaccinated, I urge you to get your shot. And if you don’t plan to get vaccinated, please wear a mask. Let’s serve one another in love and reclaim a fuller worship experience.



## Praying Our Way Beyond Normal

As we look ahead to the fall, we all want to get “back to normal” after a long year of COVID disruptions. But what if the Lord wants to take us “beyond normal,” by helping us learn from the past year and to take advantage of new opportunities that He’s giving?



This is the question that motivates our pastor’s invitation to participate in a “*Week of Prayer for Renewal*” that will take place from July 25 to August 1. As we approach that week, we’re asking everyone to sign-up to pray for our church at least once a day—preferably at the same time every day—with a goal of making sure that *someone* is praying for Calvary in every hour of every day from 6 AM to 10 PM. Of course, we’ll provide some “prayer starters” that will inspire and guide everyone’s prayer efforts. But for the purposes of renewal, what we *ask* for may not be nearly as important as what we *listen* for. We want to hear God’s Spirit speak to us so that we can discern how we need to care for one another, to grow together, and to bless our community in the year ahead.

We’ll have a “*Week of Prayer*” signup sheet available at church on Sunday mornings. But you can also call the church office or email Pastor Alex (pastoralex4@gmail.com) to make your prayer commitment. On Sunday, August 1, we’ll have a “celebration event” (details coming soon) to share what we’ve discovered. Would you pray for God to move us “Beyond Normal” as we start a new school year?

## Dear Calvary...

Thank you all so kindly for each prayer, call, text, visit, food and special gifts. Your fervent prayers and concern have meant the world to us. Your compassion and care have delivered us through the process of surgery and now healing. We know that God’s mighty hand has been upon us. You’re a blessing and we look forward to the day that we can return to worship with everyone.

In Christian love, Becky and Troy Payne

Words cannot say how much I appreciate your thoughts, prayers, cards and support during my recent health issues, surgery and continuing recovery. Thanks so much for being such a caring and loving family. You have truly shared the spirit of Christ with me.

David Stone

## Honorariums & Memorials

- *In Honor of Betty Wagoner*: by Wanda Jean Amburn
- *In Memory of Charlie Wagoner*: by Wanda Jean Amburn
- *In Memory of Ray Goins*: by Neal & Karen Wigley
- *In Memory of Betty Sue Johnson*: By Ken & Barbara Nowlin, and by Sharon Thornburg

## New Short-Term Study

On July 11, Co-Ed 1 will begin a new 6-session study of *Daring Faith* by Rick Warren during the Sunday School hour. “And what is *Daring Faith* about?” you ask. Well, in the words of the study guide: “*Now is the time to choose faith over fear and live with more freedom, joy, and impact. As Ephesians 3:12 says, ‘Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come confidently into God’s presence (NLT). Discover how you can have daring faith in uncertain times and make a difference for Christ.’*” Anyone is welcome to participate in the study. And if you’d like a study book, please contact Kim Morrison (kmorrison@mtairy.k12.nc.us).

## Upcoming Community Celebration



Surry County is sponsoring a special event to kickoff the celebration of the county’s 250th Anniversary on Saturday, August 21 (rain date: Aug. 28) at the Historic Courthouse Square in Dobson. The opening ceremony will be at 10 AM, with entertainment and activities continuing throughout the day until 6 PM. The event is free and will include a car show, Surry County sonkers, numerous food trucks, children’s activities, displays by local historical organizations, Revolutionary War demonstrations and great music from headliners Presley Barker, Taylon Hope, the Nunn Brothers, the Slate Mountain Ramblers, and the Celtic Sessions band. Parking will be available at Dobson Elementary School, Dobson First Baptist Church, the Surry County Judicial Center, and Surry Community College, where guests can hop on a shuttle for a free ride to downtown. For more information about this even and the county’s 250th anniversary, log onto <http://facebook.com/surry250> and [www.surry250.com](http://www.surry250.com).