

The Pastor Ponders: “In The Loop” at Calvary

Keeping a church family “*In the Loop*” about congregational activities and needs can be incredibly challenging these days. In part, that’s because we use so many different tools to communicate. There’s postal mail, email, text messages, phone calls, the weekly bulletin, the church website, Facebook, Twitter... *and those are just the tools I know we’re using!* There are probably others that *are* being used – or that *could* be used...and there might be a tool or two that have outlived their usefulness.

On top of that, even when we *use* one of these methods of communication, there’s no guarantee that our message is getting through. Email can be deleted before it’s read. The Sunday bulletin can be stuffed in a Bible and forgotten. *And let’s be honest!* We get bombarded with so much information that much of what we *do* see can slip from our minds before we get a chance to use it.

Finally, we must also face the fact that “the rules of the communication game” keep shifting. Costs go up. People’s phone numbers and email addresses change. Sometimes, it’s a wonder that we’re able to keep anyone informed about all the great things that God is doing here at Calvary Baptist!

I say all this in order to provide a little “context” for an important announcement: **You are reading the last “Calvary Herald” newsletter that we will be mailing to a broad cross-section of our church family.**

The reasons for this change are numerous. Postal rates continue to rise, which makes it increasingly expensive to mail a piece like this every month. Many of the people who *receive* the newsletter in the mail *also* receive it (or *could* receive it) by email. Most of the information in the “Herald” is also available in the weekly bulletin and on our website. The list goes on. In any case, our deacons and church staff have decided that mailing this newsletter to our members and guests is one of those “communication tools” that has outlived its usefulness. And so, we’re planning to make a change.

Having said all that, however, it remains a high priority for us to communicate effectively with everyone who’s connected to our church family so that we can share with you the latest news about the ministries we share – AND – so that you can share with us your needs, your ideas, and your testimonies to God’s goodness. Therefore, here are some of the things we’re planning as we phase out the newsletter.

While there are good reasons to stop mailing this newsletter in this format, there remains a need for a monthly summary of what’s going on at Calvary. This summary will probably be formatted so that it can easily be delivered in a digital format (through email, the church website, and so on). However, because we know that many of our homebound members don’t use computers and can’t easily swing by the church to pick up information, we will continue to mail this monthly summary to our homebound members and to those who specifically request it.

As we make greater use of “non-print” communication, it will become even more important for us to have up-to-date contact information. During the month of March, we will be inviting worshipers to provide us with their “current and preferred” email address – and with their mobile phone number (if they have one). So if you will not be with us in worship this month, we’d be grateful if you could call the church office and give us this information.

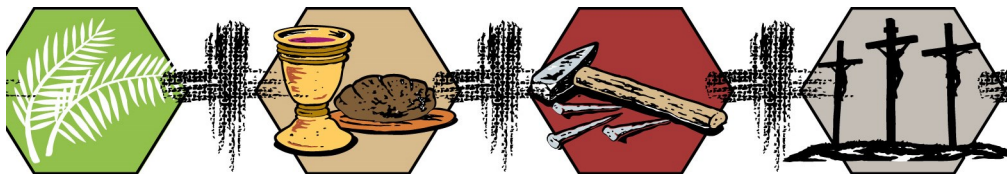
Facebook has become an increasingly useful tool for sharing the life of our church. So if you use Facebook, please be sure that you “like” our church page.

Finally, please remember that communication is a two-way street. We can provide
(Continued on page 2)

information in every conceivable format. But until you pay attention to it, the word will not get through. And if you see ways that we could communicate with you and with others more effectively, we encourage you to let us know.

We are blessed to have a vibrant and caring church family here at Calvary. And we want to do an even better job of keeping everyone "in the loop" so that we can celebrate God's goodness, deepen our faith, and serve others together. The newsletter you're holding will soon disappear, but the work of God's Spirit in us and through us will not. And for that, we give Him all the thanks and praise.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Alex*



Church Life Updates

- **JOY Group Lunch:** On Wednesday, March 1, the JOY Group will have a covered dish luncheon at the church fellowship hall. After lunch we'll take some time to write cards to our homebound members. Please join us!
- **Fidget Friday:** Our next "Fidget Friday" will be March 17 at 10 a.m. Please help us put together fidget blankets for those who suffer from Alzheimers or dementia. Materials are supplied. Contact Teresa Martin to learn more.
- **American Heart Association CPR & AED training** will be offered **free** to all church members & staff. The training is limited to 15 students per course on a first come basis. Please call the church office to register for the course. Only one class meeting is required to complete the training. We need a minimum 5 students to conduct each course. Class dates are Sunday, March 5 from 12:15-2:15 p.m.; Sunday, March 19 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; or Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m.—12 p.m. Please call Danny Lineberry at 745-1320 if you have questions.
- **Digital Giving Update:** At the end of last year, Calvary introduced a set of digital giving tools to make it easier for those who handle their finances electronically to support the work of our church with their tithes and offerings. We're happy to report that in the first two months of this year, more than 27 different donors have used these tools, and they have given a combined total of almost \$13,000. We are so grateful for everyone's faithful support of our ministry; and we'd like to remind you that you can give on our church website, using the "EasyTithe" app, or with a text message. To learn more, please visit our church website or call the church office.
- **Women in Mission:** All ladies are welcomed to join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. as we make soup for our homebound members and shut-ins. We will meet in the fellowship hall. For more information about Women in Mission, contact Donna Keck.
- **Way To Go, CBC!** Thanks to everyone who donated greeting cards for St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Because of your help, we were able to send 1,305 cards to the Ranch this week! Please note that collection efforts will continue year-round, with a box in the area between the classroom wing and sanctuary. So, please continue to drop your "card fronts," to be included in a separate mailing later in the year. Also, if you wish to purchase cards from St. Jude's Ranch, you can do so through one of the following methods: **1)** visit the online store at; **2)** call 877-977- 7572; or **3)** email vhuening@stjudesranch.org. Again, thank you for helping the children through this worthwhile program. Contact Mary Jane Shelton and Brenda Barfield for more information.
- **VBS 2017:** Please join us June 25-29 for our next VBS adventure, "Galactic Starveyors, searching the visible, discovering the invisible"! Please contact Ashley Mills if you have questions and would like to help!

New Session of Mid-Week Ministry

A new session of our Mid-Week Ministry kicks off on Wednesday, March 8. This weekly gathering provides a valuable opportunity to develop friendships and to deepen our walk with Christ; so we hope you'll join us for the weekly snack supper at 5:45, followed by ministries for children and youth and these study options for adults:

Hope – An Anchor For Life (Dr. David Jeremiah): God's hope is real, guaranteed hope that dispels discouragement, resists depression, and inspires joy and confidence. The author takes us on a tour of the most hopeful passages of Scripture and focuses on practical topics- Hope for the Prodigal, Hope for our Nation, a Prayer of Hope. Led by Sheila Wilson

“A Good Old-Fashioned Wednesday Night”- Join Pastor Alex in the Fellowship Hall following our Mid-Week Snack Supper for a Wednesday night devotional time that's got some tradition behind it. We'll sing a couple hymns, share a time of prayer, and have a brief Bible study that connects God's Word with our daily lives. Everyone's invited to be part of this mid-week spiritual boost.

Outlive Your Life (Max Lucado): These are difficult days in our world's history. Billions of people are poor, millions go hungry or thirsty every day. Disease claims thousands of lives daily. But you and I have been given an opportunity to make a big difference. What if we did? Join Kim Morrison and Jan Varney for this study on serving others effectively.

Cries from the Cross: A Lenten Journey through the Last Words of Jesus

When someone important to us is approaching death, we often pay special attention to their last words. Last words can provide unique insight into a person's life; and they can offer valuable reminders of the priorities for which that person stood. Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that Christians have long paid special attention to the last words of Jesus. Drawn from all four gospels, the “Seven Last Words of Christ” have offered a window into Jesus' relationship with the Father – and have reminded us of everything that Jesus endured for our salvation.

During the season of Lent this year, we'll be considering the “Seven Last Words of Christ” in morning worship. Each Sunday, we'll dive deeply into one of these “Cries from the Cross,” seeking the truth that our Lord wants to teach us. If you'd like prepare for these messages by reading Jesus' last words for yourself, the schedule will look like this:

- ◆ March 5: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:32-38)
 - ◆ March 12: “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43)
 - ◆ March 19: “Woman, behold your son.” (John 19:26-27)
 - ◆ March 26: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:45-59)
 - ◆ April 2: “I thirst.” (John 19:28-29)
 - ◆ April 9: “It is finished.” (John 19:30)
 - ◆ April 16: Sunrise Service – “Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46-49); Easter Worship – “The Words After That.”
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Passover Seder

One of the things we too often overlook in our study of Jesus is the fact that he was a first-century Jew. Everything that Jesus did and taught – all the traditions that shaped his identity and mission – grew out of his Jewish background. As a result, understanding that background often helps us understand Jesus.

Nowhere is this more true, than when it comes to the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. This meal, which we remember for its broken bread and shared cup, was part of a larger Jewish Passover celebration. By learning more

about Passover, we discover new depths in God's redemptive story as its told in the entire Bible.

That's why on Saturday, April 8, we're inviting you to experience the Seder – the Jewish Passover meal. We'll be partnering with *Ekklesia* – a house church in Pilot Mountain – and we'll be led by Rabbi Ted Simon – a Jewish believer in Christ – who will help us understand the way that this holy celebration of the Jewish people prepares the way for and deepens our understanding of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Details for this event are still being arranged. So please pay attention to upcoming bulletins and email updates so that you can register.

Notes of Gratitude

To My Friends at Calvary Baptist Church: I am overwhelmed by the love and caring you all have shown me in my present and past "infirmities". Your cards have been very cheering and lovely and the care package is a great idea and so appreciated. From my first visit to Calvary you all have taken me in and made me part of your family and I love you for it. I am so thankful that my son and his family are in such a loving and caring church. Thank you so much –Joanne Martin

Dear Calvary Family, Thank you for your compassion and support in the weeks since Mom's passing. All the prayers, calls, visits, cards and food have been much appreciated. Thank you for all the stories and memories you've shared. Above all, thank you for remembering how much mom loved you and how much she loved serving her Lord through Calvary Baptist Church. – JoLynn Johnson, Mike Forrest, Tom Forrest, and John Forrest

Dear Members of Calvary Baptist Church, The Guardian ad Litem program certainly appreciated your contributions to our Peanut Butter and Jelly campaign through the Department of Social Services. You added to the total of over 800 jars collected. Many of us remember our childhood with fondness and we all would like good memories of childhood for all. Thank you for helping to give good food and some good memories to the children of our community. –Warm regards, Kate Appler

Dear Calvary, How thankful I feel for the many expressions of love shown to me and my children at Ken's death. Thank you for the meal provided following the service and for the visits, cards and your prayers. –Rachel Harris & Family

Recent Contributions

In Memory of Ray Blackburn

Co-Ed 3 SS Class

In Memory of Lucy Browne

Wilma Roberson

In Memory of Tom Douglas

Eller Barfield SS Class

Norris and Jo Hodge

Glenda Laster

Wilma Roberson

In Memory of Vera Forrest

Balfour Baptist Church

Ray and Vernell Goins

Ladies 3 SS Class

Kenny and Amy Nowlin

Wilma Roberson

Jill Shelton

In Memory of Ken Harris

Eller Barfield SS Class

Ray and Vernell Goins

Lee and Judy Mills

In Memory of Faye Jarrell

Kenny and Amy Nowlin

Wilma Roberson

In Memory of Mike Lowe

Parley and Jane Jones

Brittany Kemp

Jason Kemp

Jessi Kemp Davis

Randy and Becky Reed

William and Holly Scott

Church Statistics

Budget Year 2017 As of 2/19/17	Budget to Date	Receipts to Date	Expenditures to Date	Receipts minus Expenditures
General	\$78,534.64	\$67,469.50	\$49,021.37	\$18,448.13
Debt Retirement	\$3,296.60	\$2,925.00	\$3,640.42	(\$715.42)
Transportation	\$1,582.34	\$350.00	\$42.01	\$307.99
Debt Reduction Funds Available as of 2/19:			\$9,454.12	
Total Debt Balance as of 2/19:			\$156,146.53	
Endowment Fund as of 2/19:			\$37,621.84	

If you have any questions about the budget please see Bob Peake.

	2/5/2017	2/12/2017	2/19/2017
Sunday School	170	174	177
Uplift	74	91	89
Traditional	165	152	170
Total Worship	239	243	259

General	\$10,022.00	\$7,703.15	\$8,101.00
Debt Retirement	\$1,115.00	\$80.00	\$120.00
Transportation	\$230.00	\$0.00	\$50.00

Church Calendar		
Date	Time	Activity
3/1	12 p.m.	JOY Group (Covered Dish)
3/1	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
3/5	12:15 p.m.	CPR/AED Training
3/14	6:30 p.m.	B.Y.W. Meeting
3/17	10:00 a.m.	JOY Group (Fidget Friday)
3/19	5:00 p.m.	Business & Finance Meeting
3/19	1:30 p.m.	CPR/AED Training
3/28	8:30 a.m.	Women in Mission (Soup Ministry)

Date	Deacon of the Week	Good Shepherds
3/5	Kent Moser 336-786-6932	Randy Gentry 336-710-3066 Lee Mills 336-789-2005
3/12	Randy Gentry 336-710-3066	Benny Lisk 336-415-5311 Kenny Nowlin 336-786-1519
3/19	Brent Hull 336-786-7992	Kent Moser 336-786-6932 Steve Simandle 336-401-2666
3/26	Lee Mills 336-789-2005	Sam Critz 336-341-8248 Bob McPherson 336-786-8748

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*The Herald is published
 the first of each month.*

Newsletter Deadline for next month is February 20, 2017. Please submit
 newsletter items to the church office by 12:00 Noon on that date.

**Return Service
 Requested**


Children & Youth Volunteers for February

Uplift Service

Nursery

Traditional Service

Infants through 3 Years Old

3/5	Jamie Smith, Christie Robertson	3/5	Sylvia Faw & Mary Nicholson
3/12	Benny & Pam Lisk		
3/19	Jeff & Donna Stowe	3/12	Tony & Deena Martin, Stan & Sheila Wilson
3/26	Rocky & Amber Horton		
		3/19	Gray & Mary Jane Shelton, Windham Martin
		3/26	Choppy & Antonia Cawley, Sherry Hiatt
		Children's Church	
		3/5	Jessica & Steve Simandle
		3/12	Eric & Kristen Leathers
		3/19	Mary Lynn & Johnny Goins
		3/26	Justin & Stephanie Hawks

"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14, NIV



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 Minister of Music Teresa Martin
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 Administrative Assistant Billie Doyle
(billie@calvarybcmtairy.org)
 Office Assistant Jane Bowman
(jane@calvarybcmtairy.org)
 Pianist Mary MacCollum
 Organist Carolyn Greene
 Sound Engineers..... Phillip Hiatt, Danny Lineberry
 Custodian Carlos Delfin

Striving to glorify God by being a Christ-centered, caring church through worship, discipleship, missions and ministry.