



Calvary *Herald*

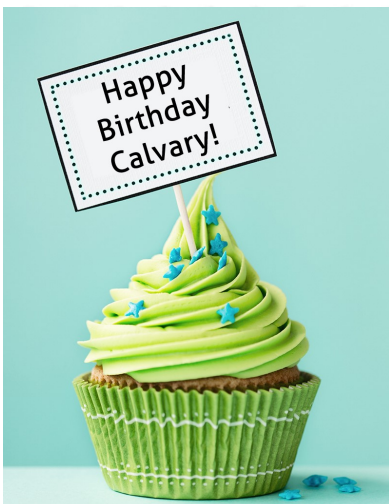
MAY 2023 - VOLUME 54 - ISSUE 5

Happy Birthday, Calvary!

On Sunday, May 7, the Calvary Baptist church family will celebrate 110 years of serving Christ together! And because we want to highlight the One Lord who saved us and the One Faith that binds us together, we've decided to make our anniversary a "One Calvary" Sunday. This is part of our ongoing effort to build a deeper sense of connection among all the people who participate in the life of our church. And so, in place of our normal Sunday morning schedule, we'll be inviting everyone to share in shared times of study, worship and fellowship. For Anniversary Sunday only, we'll have Sunday School at 9 am, worship at 10 am, and our special anniversary lunch at 11 am.

Beginning on Anniversary Sunday (and continuing throughout the month of May), we'll be receiving an Anniversary Offering that will help to fund a project that would not normally be included in our regular church budget. This year's project provides upgrades to several church entrances, offering greater security and enhanced accessibility. Any excess funds will support the upcoming renovation of our children's Sunday School area (that is, the upper floor of our Educational Building). For your convenience, the Anniversary Offering is one of the designations available using our online giving tools.

We hope that you'll join us as we say, "Thanks!" for all that God has done among us – and "Yes!" to all that He still plans to do.



Blood Drive for Brent Hull

Calvary Baptist will host a Red Cross Blood Drive in honor of Brent Hull on Sunday, May 21, from 11 am to 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Brent's ongoing treatment for leukemia has required regular use of blood products; and this serves as a reminder of how essential and life-saving your blood donation can be. If you'd like to schedule a donation, we encourage you to visit www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code "Calvary." If you'd like to support this effort by assisting with registration or staffing the snack area, please contact Mary Jane Shelton by email (grayandmary@gmail.com) or by phone (336/789-5821).



**GIVE
BLOOD.
GIVE
LIFE.**

Franklin Backpack: A Year in Review

This month, Calvary will take its final delivery of food for 2022-23 Backpack Program to Franklin Elementary School. In the past 9 months, we've delivered almost 3000 bags of food to students from "food insecure" families, so that they could get through the weekend without facing hunger. And the cost of this food has been more than \$10,000.

Naturally, a ministry like this wouldn't be possible without the support and participation of our entire church family. So we'd like to thank everyone who designated some of your offerings to support this important work. And we'd like to express special gratitude to the Sunday School classes who helped to pack bags of food each month – and to Kent Moser, who delivered the food to Franklin each week.

Thankfully, we have a bit of a break during the summer months. But you can be confident that we'll continue to bless the students of Franklin when school resumes in the fall. So we hope that you'll be ready to participate in the giving and serving that makes this ministry possible.



A Stellar Week of VBS

Get ready for a Stellar week at VBS!!! This coming June 11-15, Calvary Baptist Church will be hosting a "STELLAR" VBS, a space themed week full of fun where kids will learn about shining God's light! Each night there will be registration/snack supper from 5:30-6, followed by a worship celebration and classes from 6-8:15!! Classes will include music, crafts, Bible time and recreation...it is sure to be a fun week so start getting excited now! VBS will be for kids ages 2 years old-5th grade, If you have any questions please ask Alex Bracey! Thanks!



Missions in May

In the opening months of this year, everyone in our church family has given faithfully to advance the cause of missions in our community and in our world. This month, therefore, we're going to give you a break by holding off on any new drives or collections. However, because of the support you've already provided through your regular giving, Calvary will continue to bless others! During the month of May, funds from our missions budget will be used to buy fans that will be distributed to those in need of summer cooling by the Salvation Army and Mount Airy Police Department. In addition, Calvary will sponsor an "End of Year" luncheon for the staff at Franklin Elementary to express appreciation for their dedicated work with students. Thank you for helping us to make a difference...together!

A Walk on the Roman Road

If you've been around a Baptist church for a while, you're probably familiar with "The Roman Road." For many years, this series of passages—taken from Paul's letter to the church in Rome—has offered an outline of some key elements in the gospel. And because of that, it's been a powerful tool for sharing the good news with those who don't know Jesus – and for teaching those who do.

But the Book of Romans is such a rich and multi-faceted epistle that it offers many paths that can instruct and inspire us. And that's why, during the month of May, Pastor Alex will be inviting us to consider a different series of passages that he's calling, "***The Roman Road Less Travelled.***" By examining these texts, we hope to find—not a different way to salvation (after all, there's only one way)—but some additional "milestones" that can guide and encourage us as we follow in the way of Jesus. So why not join us on the journey, which begins on Sunday, May 7.

Coming This Fall: Servant Sunday



If you were part of the Calvary Church family back in 2019, you might remember “Servant Sunday”—a one day celebration in which we cancelled our “worship services” so that we could “worship by serving” in a variety of hands-on ministries. On that day, just about everyone in our congregation had a chance to bless others by building ramps, collecting food, visiting nursing homes, packing hygiene kits, sewing prayer shawls, and so much more. And this year, we’re planning to do it again—with even more projects and even more opportunities for all of us to “live the kingdom into the world.”

Servant Sunday 2023 is scheduled for this October. But in order to have the most meaningful impact possible, we need to start making plans now. One of the most important tasks is to start dreaming of all the different ways we want to serve our community. So we’re asking you to join us in a time of “prayerful brainstorming.” What are some of the needs in our community that we might be able to address, even in some small way? (And don’t forget to think about community organizations of which you’re a part and with whom we could partner to produce a bigger impact!) What are some of the gifts in our church, and how could we use those gifts to serve others in Jesus’ name? As you generate possibilities, please pass them along to Pastor Alex or the members of our Missions Team (Amber Horton, Pam Peake, Jan Varney).

Please join us in praying that the Lord will guide us into fresh opportunities to bless others and that He’ll prepare us to worship through serving.

Get Growing with RightNow Media

Did you know that you can use your free subscription to RightNow Media (available at no cost to everyone who participates in the life of our church family) to study practically any book of the Bible with guidance and engaging teaching from some of today’s most popular authors and preachers? Whether you prefer to study alone or with a group, these series Bible study resources allow you to dig into God’s Word with commentary and questions for reflection and discussion. Here are just a few of the series available:



8-week study of
Acts
(Louie Giglio)



7-week study of
Ruth
(Bianca Juárez Olthoff)



8-week study of
Job
(Francis Chan)

Of course, you also have access to devotionals, topical studies, training about parenting, witnessing, and managing your finances—not to mention wholesome entertainment for your kids! If you haven’t activated your RightNow Media subscription, just contact Pastor Alex to learn how. And if you have activated a subscription but haven’t been using it, why not prepare for the summer by setting some goals and finding the resources to get growing?

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Memorials and Honorariums

In Honor of Jo Ann Surratt
Susan Leonard

In Memory of Pauline Badgett
Claudia Bryant
James and Sandra Byrd
Lillian Holder
Alison Johnson
Ladies 5 Sunday School Class
Dot Marion
Ramey and Cindy McBride
Tom and Paula Mitton
Jim and Lilnette Phillips
Velma Toliver

In Memory of Bill Belton
Lillie Mae Haynes
Jim and Lilnette Phillips

In Memory of Mildred Jarrell
Margaret Smith

In Memory of Thelma Shelton
Margaret Smith

In Memory of Betty Southern
Ladies 5 Sunday School Class

Dear Calvary Family...

Your kindness since my accident showed me now caring my Calvary family is. Thank you first for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits with food made me smile and then I cried after you left. You are so giving in times of need. I feel blessed to be a part of this family.

Margaret Smith

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, emails, and cards during my recent illness. The cards & emails brightened my day, and your prayers got me through some very rough times. I really felt God's presence as you all lifted me in prayer. Thank you again for being such a caring and praying church family.

Joyce Stephens

Thanks to everyone for your kindness and ministry during the passing of our mother, Pauline Badgett. A special thanks to all of the ladies who prepared a meal after the service—a kind and thoughtful act that was much appreciated. Having the Calvary family by our side during this difficult time was exceptionally comforting to us.

Ramey & Cindy McBride, Tom & Paula Mitton, and Families

To say thank you does not seem to be enough. My friends I love each and every one of you for all you do and for all your prayers. I pray for each one in the church family every day. My thanks to you all. I'm glad you're in my life!

Brenda and Peggy Arnder

Bible Study with Pastor Alex

Beginning on May 4, Pastor Alex will be leading a weekly Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10 o'clock. The group will meet in Room 119 on the lower level of the Education Building (the "Spares and Pairs" Sunday School classroom), and the first topic of study will be Genesis 1-11. There will not be a separate book or study guide for this group; instead, our focus will be on reading, discovering, and discussing the scriptures together. Therefore, you don't need to do any "advance preparation." But you can read ahead to get your insights and questions ready! If you need any more information, about the study please contact Pastor Alex (pastoralex4@gmail.com).



New Directory in Progress

We hope to begin producing and distributing our new church directory soon! In preparation, we hope to have "draft copies" available that you can use to check your information, and we may be reaching out to some of you to clarify your contact details or to request a photo. While we're doing that, there's still time for you to visit InstantChurchDirectory.com so that you can create an account and make changes on your own. You can also get the "Instant Church Directory" app, which will allow you to keep all your Calvary info on your phone or tablet.

