

Calvary *Herald*

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The Power of Connections—Old and New!

After a summer away on sabbatical, it's a little hard to believe that I've been back at church for *only* a month! And even though much has happened during this month, it's been a joy to reconnect with our church family. I've been encouraged by the enthusiasm with which you've greeted my return—and by the excitement you've shown for the things that God is doing here. In just the last few weeks, we've started a new message series about "The Story" God is telling in the Bible and in us. We've launched a new season of youth and children's ministries. We've raised money to fund this year's backpack ministry. We've even started rehearsing a Christmas cantata! So make no mistake: I'm *thrilled* to be serving this church family. And I'm looking forward to all that God will do, as we seek Him and serve Him together.

Sadly, there are still some folks with whom I *haven't* been able to reconnect. Some face challenges that keep them away from church. Others got out of the habit of being at church during the summer. And still others have yet to get back *in* the habit of being at church after the disruptions caused by COVID! So I'm asking for your help, so that we can reconnect those people to God and to our church family. Please be attentive—not just to the people who *are* here on Sunday morning—but also to those who *aren't* here! And then, let those who *haven't* been able to be with us know that their presence is missed.

Then, too, I'm also asking for your help in making *new* connections. As we've discussed in recent sermons, God calls us to a mission of blessing others. And what better blessing could we share than to connect people with the God and Father who's done so much for us? So please be attentive to the people with whom you come in contact during the week, and invite those people to come and see what God is doing at Calvary. If experience is any indicator, quite a few of them *will* get connected—both to the love of our Savior *and* to the bond that we share as His people.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Alex

Fellowship Breakfast

Fall is a time when many families reconnect with church after a busy summer. And especially as we continue to get "back to normal" after the pastor's sabbatical, there's a lot of "reconnecting" we'd like to see happen! That's why we'll be sponsoring a Fellowship Breakfast on Sunday, October 23. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall between Uplift and Sunday School (9:15 to 10:00) so that we can celebrate the bond that brings us together as God's people. This would be a great opportunity to reach out to folks you haven't seen in a while... *and* to invite new people! So please mark your calendar...and let's eat!



Blessing Our Youth

This January, youth from Calvary will be attending a weekend retreat in Pigeon Forge. This trip allows our students to get away from the noise and routines of life, to share in experiences that bring them closer together as a group, and—most importantly—to grow closer to Jesus and re-calibrate their hearts towards Him. However, the cost of a retreat like this can be a little challenging for some youth to manage, especially when there's more than one youth in a given family participating. And so, if you'd be interested in helping one of our young people to cover the cost of this trip, please contact Alex Bracey. Thank you for your faithful support of what God is doing in the lives of our students!



Happy Anniversary!

Our church family would like to say, "Happy Calvary Anniversary" to Mary Gammons and Melissa Inscore, our Sunday morning nursery workers! Mary and Melissa have been serving the children of our congregation for three years now, and we are deeply grateful for the love and professionalism they bring to their work. Especially if you've had or have a child in the nursery, we encourage you to let them know how much they're appreciated.

Are You Staying Connected?

Here at Calvary, we want everyone to stay connected to God, to each other, and to what the Lord is doing in and through our church. To help make that happen, we have a variety of resources, which you can receive in a variety of ways. A daily devotional—*Today's Word from Pastor Alex*—goes out every weekday by phone and email. Prayer requests and weekend updates go out "as needed" by phone and email. Weekly bulletins are sent each week by email, and monthly newsletters go out by email and postal mail.

If you'd like to receive any of these resources—or if you are no longer receiving them because of a change in your phone number, email address, or mailing address—please contact the church office to tell us what you'd like to receive and/or to update your contact info. Let's stay connected to all that God wants to do among us as we head into this busy time of year.



Make a Joyful Noise

Music plays a big part in the worship of our church family! And we're always looking for people who are willing "make a joyful noise to the Lord"—even if they think that "noise" is all they can make! If you'd like to be a part of our music ministry, our handbell choir—the Calvary Joy Bells—rehearses on Wednesday nights from 6:15 to 7:15, and our Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights from 7:15 to 8:15. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Church to learn more about handbells or Teresa Martin to learn more about the choir.

A Word about Online Giving

Calvary's ministries are made possible by your faithful giving. From sending backpacks to students at Franklin to stocking the local foodbank, and from cooling the sanctuary to paying our staff...all of it is possible only because you honor God with your tithes and offerings. Of course, that can be a challenge, given the economy these days. And the changing way that we handle money doesn't make it any easier! Fewer and fewer people write checks and carry cash, while more and more people "go digital." So if you're one of those people, we'd like to remind you that you can support the work that God is doing at Calvary using our online giving tools.

Just visit the "Give Now" section of our church website (calvarymountairy.org) or download the "EasyTithe" app. You'll be able to use your bank account, debit card, or credit card to make one-time gifts or to set up recurring contributions. You can even give to our designated funds and special offerings!

Please remember that when you give electronically, you have the option of adding 2.5% to your donation to cover the processing fees. That way, the church receives the entire benefit of your gift, rather than using a portion of it to cover expenses. Please remember, too, that if you ever have any questions about our church family's budget, you're encouraged to speak with the pastor or a member of the Finance Committee.

Thanks for all that you do to keep Calvary strong by giving not only your money but also your heart to the Lord!

Two New Short-Term Sunday School Classes This Month

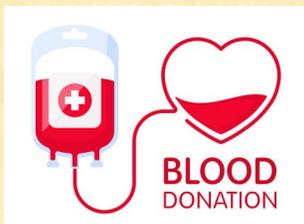


During October, Calvary will start two, new, short-term Sunday School classes! If you're not already involved in weekly Bible study—or if you're looking for a temporary change of pace—this might be just what you're looking for. The two classes are:

- **Thriving in Babylon:** How can Christians thrive spiritually in an increasingly secular environment? In this 10-week study, Pastor Larry Osborne introduces us to Daniel, a man forced to live in a fast-changing and godless society. In addition to learning how Daniel survived and thrived using hope, humility, and wisdom, participants will see real-life stories of believers responding to today's challenges. The class begins on Sunday, October 2. For more info, contact Becky Critz at bcritz1129@gmail.com.
- **Mission Possible:** Most of us want to believe that there's more to our time on earth than just feeling pleasure, pursuing goals, and gaining social status. Deep inside, we know that our life's mission is to live with purpose. In this 6-week study, Tim Tebow introduces the tools you need to set your priorities and align your choices with God's call on your life. The class begins on October 30. For more info, please contact Benny Lisk at benton.lisk@firstcitizens.com or Kim Morrison at kmorrison@mtairy.k12.nc.us.

Thanks to All Who Gave!

We'd like to express appreciation to everyone who participated in our Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, September 18. Because of those who donated, volunteered, and prayed, 33 units of blood were collected, which will make a life-saving difference in the lives of people facing different treatments and surgeries. Thank you for giving the gift of life!



rightnow MEDIA

Check Out What's New on RightNow Media

Just in case you've forgotten, everyone who's connected with the Calvary Baptist family has free, unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—an online resource for Bible studies, devotional materials, and wholesome entertainment for the whole family. Many members of our congregation are already using *RightNow Media* to enhance their walk with Christ, and some of our Sunday School classes are using *RightNow Media* Bible studies so their participants can review lessons or catch up when they're away from church. If you haven't yet created your personal *RightNow Media* account, just contact Pastor Alex, and he'll be happy to send you a registration link. And if you do have an account—but haven't visited the website recently—here's an example of what you're missing!

If you haven't already been introduced to the teachings of Jonathan Evans, wait no longer! Son of Pastor Tony Evans and brother of Priscilla Shirer, Jonathan is an author, speaker, former NFL fullback, and Chaplain of the Dallas Cowboys. Check out two of his newest series on *RightNow Media*:



Fighting Your Battles: In life's difficult moments, we find peace when we remember that the God we serve fights our battles alongside us. Even when we feel like we can't carry on, we can take heart knowing that in times of turmoil God equips us to grow in our faith and draw closer to him. In this six-session series, you will discover how you can face every hardship with strength and hope.

Stories from the Storyteller: Join the Evans family as Jonathan leverages the ministry of Jesus to teach life lessons to his children (ages 3-13) through everyday activities and family adventures. Normal activities—like a fun family cooking competition, camping in the great outdoors, or a trip to a theme park—turn into hysterical adventures and epic teachable moments.



Recent Memorials

In Memory of Marvin Beasley

Lundy Management Group

In Memory of Lynn Bowman

Anonymous

In Memory of Ray Francis

Claudia Bryant
Juanita Clifton
Roger and Kaye Puckett
Co-Ed 4 SS Class
Kenny and Amy Nowlin
Guy and Mary Sparger
Mary Jo White and Family

In Memory of Marlin Mabe

Mike and Renee Francis
Sharon Thornburg

In Memory of Betty Southern

James and Sandra Byrd
Juanita Clifton
Mike and Renee Francis
Lillie Mae Haynes
Chuck and Jo Lynn Johnson
Tony and Deena Martin
Bob and Pam Peake
Jim and Lilnette Phillips
Guy and Mary Sparger
Mary Jo White and Family

In Memory of Alma Venable

Claudia Bryant
Mike and Renee Francis
Paul and Brenda Gustafson
Mary Jo White and Family

In Memory of Thelma Shelton

Brenda Barfield
Teresa Bell
Claudia Bryant
Jimmy and Sandra Byrd
Vickie Caudle
Juanita Clifton
Dennis and Patricia Coe
Billy Ray & Lillie Mae Corns
William & Bertha Draughn
Cathy and Bill Essick
Mike and Renee Francis
Patricia Gardner
Linda Gordon
Carolyn Hartgrove
Lillie Mae Haynes
Phil and Sherry Hiatt
Roger Jarrell
Chuck and Jo Lynn Johnson
Glenda Laster
Wes and Donna Martin
Jimmy and Jane Martin
Tony and Deena Martin
Kevin and Becky McPherson
Pat and Minnie McPherson
Ken and Barbara Nowlin
Kenny and Amy Nowlin
Jim and Lilnette Phillips
Roger and Kaye Puckett
Margaret Smith and Family
Pat Smith
Guy and Mary Sparger
Owen and Sandra Stone
Jo Ann Surratt
Johnny and Paulette Surratt
Bob and Brenda Tarkenton
Mary Jo White and Family

Dear Calvary

Thank you all so much for your thoughts, prayers and cards during Mom's illness and passing. We could not have made it through this time without your love and support.

Thank you also for the food that was brought to Dad's house and the wonderful meal you prepared for us to have after Mom's service. Mom loved Calvary Church. When she could no longer attend her 3 year old Sunday School class, she would cry every time she talked about it.

Thank you all again for all you have done for us.

The Thelma Shelton Family

Thank you so much for the chicken, fries, hush puppies and slaw. Thank you especially for your support and prayers. Mom loved her church family.

May God bless you,
Danny and LuAnn

Your willingness and servants' hearts continue to bless your congregation in time of need. Thank you for the food, calls, visits and most of all the ramp for mom during daddy's passing. All these blessings were so appreciated.

Much love,
Linda, Randy and Laura Cannoy

A Special Note from Franklin Elementary

Dear Calvary Baptist Church,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for helping our students at Franklin Elementary! We have been so blessed to have a partnership with you; and once again this year, you've generously blessed our Franklin families with back-to-school outfits and school supplies.

I want to tell you about one family that Calvary was able to help. One of our teachers was talking with a parent about what her children needed as the new school year got started. This parent said that her family was struggling to take care of school supplies while still paying their rent. So this teacher contacted me to see if I knew any way that we could help...and thanks to Calvary, I did!

When I told this parent that we could provide what she needed, she began to cry. At orientation, I gave her the clothes and school supplies that Calvary furnished, and her child's eyes LIT UP! Later that evening, she sent me the following text message: "Just wanted to let you know that my son absolutely loves his clothes and shoes! You are amazing, and I'm so thankful that you helped me with the things I couldn't buy this year! It means so much!"

Because of Calvary Baptist, this student (and others) started the school year with their needs met. We are truly blessed to have you! Thank you for continuing to make a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and our community!

Sincerely,

Brittany Jeffries – School Counselor, Franklin Elementary

THANK YOU!