



Calvary *Herald*

August 2025 ~ Volume 56 ~ Issue 8

Faith, Fun and Fellowship

We're thankful for everyone who has taken advantage of this summer's fellowship activities! And before we go back to a monthly schedule in September, we'd like to offer a few more great opportunities for you (and your friends) to get connected. So, don't miss these August fellowship opportunities, all of which start at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall, unless otherwise noted:

- **August 6: Summer Picnic.** Meet at church and carpool to Beth and Brinkley Church's home for a weenie roast. We'll provide drinks, hotdogs, condiments, and paper products; and we invite you to bring a dish to share. (*The rain date for this event will be August 13.*)
- **August 13: Popcorn and a Movie.**
- **August 20: Bingo and Make Your Own Sundae.** We'll bring the ice cream, and we invite you to bring your favorite ice cream topping, along with an item that we can give away as a bingo prize.
- **August 27: End of Summer Luau.** BBQ, rolls, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

New Sunday School Options

If you're the parent of a student—or just a student at heart—the beginning of a new school year provides a great opportunity to think about the ways that you'd like to learn and grow in the coming months as a follower of Jesus. With that in mind, two of our adult Sunday School classes will begin new units of study on Sunday, August 3. And you're invited to jump in, so you can develop the kind of relationship with God that enables you to pass every test.

- **Narrow Gate Class:** Join us for Jonathan Pokluda's study, "*Your Story Has a Villain.*" We'll learn what God's word has to say about spiritual warfare and how to claim the victory already secured through Jesus.
- **Coed 1 Class:** Season 3 of *The Chosen* shows how Jesus' followers applied his teaching to their lives. Come discover how we can choose the narrow path that leads to life.

Coming to a Pulpit Near You

This month, we'll be wrapping up the three series of summer sermons that you inspired with "*Putting on the New Selfie: Picture Yourself in the Image of Christ.*" In a world that encourages us to focus almost exclusively on ourselves, how do we find the "selfie" God made us to be? How do we learn how to "deny our selfie"? And why is it good to know that you'll never be "all by my selfie," but are, instead, lovingly enfolded in the family of God? We hope you can join us for worship. And as always, we encourage you to invite others!



Conversations that Change Lives

Most of us have been told over and over again that we've been called to tell others about Jesus. And chances are, we really do want to be faithful to that call! But so often, we don't know where to begin. Or we don't know what to say. And so, our good intentions remain intentions and rarely get translated into actions. But what if we could learn some basic strategies that would equip us to have conversations that point others to Christ?

On Saturday, September 13, Calvary will host "CONVERSATIONS"—a workshop designed and led by The Gideons International that provides participants with a simple approach to sharing the gospel. The workshop will be held in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at 9 o'clock that morning. (Coffee, juice, and pastries will be available, beginning at 8:30.) And by Noon, when the training is complete, we will have been reminded of the simple beauty of the good news — and will have learned practical ways to share our faith with confidence.

The workshop is open to everyone, and there's no cost. But because space is limited, advance registration will be required. Additional info and sign-up forms will appear in the bulletin during the month of August. But if you'd like to go ahead and sign-up, please reach out to Pastor Alex (pastoralex4@gmail.com or 336/745-5803).



A New Year of Backpack Ministry

It is a blessing to see how God continues to meet the needs of kids in our community through Calvary's Backpack program each year. But this ministry requires both a solid base of financial support and a team of dedicated volunteers to run effectively. That's why our annual Backpack Fund Drive will take place in September. And that's why we're already recruiting people who'd like to be involved in a more "hands on" way. Specific volunteer opportunities include:

- **Shopping:** This requires a large vehicle and the ability to load/unload food boxes.
- **Packing:** Join a group of 10-15 other volunteers to bag food items for delivery to Franklin.
- **Distributing:** Serve as one member of a two-person team that hands out food bags to classrooms at Franklin.

If you'd like to be part of the Backpack ministry in the coming school year, please contact Becky Critz (bcritz1129@gmail.com or 336/341-8249).



Too Busy to Grow? Make Time for Midweek Ministries!

The great Reformer Martin Luther once said, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." Of course, even the thought of spending three hours in prayer might scare many of us more than it encourages us. However, many scholars suggest that Luther was being more figurate than literal. And either way, he was making an important statement about priorities. Especially when our lives—and the lives of our children—are busy, one of the best ways we can cultivate the spiritual strength that allows us to navigate daily challenges is to invest first in our relationship with Christ. And thankfully, Calvary offers a simple way to make that investment! Our Midweek Ministry provides a regular opportunity for kids and adults to incorporate the priorities of Bible study, prayer, and Christian fellowship into their week.

This fall's Midweek Ministry kicks off on Wednesday, August 27. We encourage everyone to join us in the fellowship hall at 5:45 in the evening, so that we can share a word of prayer together. And then, at 6 o'clock, we head off into activities for all ages: Mission Friends for Pre-K and K children; Explorers for kids in grades 1 to 5, and Youth for students in junior high and high school. And don't forget: adults can grow, too! In our first session this fall, adults can choose between:

- **"What Happens Next?"**—a study that looks at the End Times through the eyes of faith instead of fear. As Lucado leads participants through history, he shows how each step is a part of God's intentional plan that moves us closer to our heavenly destiny. (facilitated by Jan Varney and Kim Morrison).
- **"The Practice of Prayer"**—an experiential study in which we dig into the Bible's teaching on prayer... *and spend time praying!* For the members of our group, our church, our community, and our world (facilitated by Dave McPeak Sr.)

Again, the growth begins Wednesday, Aug. 27. So what do you think? Do you have so much to do that you need to put Jesus first?

Not to Be Served, But to Serve!

Jesus spent much of his ministry serving others by meeting their needs. And since Jesus told his followers that he didn't come to *be* served but to serve (Mark 10:45); we, too, are called to be servants, sharing our time and talents to be a blessing to others.

That's the spirit that motivates Servant Sunday, which will take place on Sunday, October 19. On that day, Calvary will be suspending our regular *worship services*, so that we can *worship through serving*. And we've got a lot of great things planned! We encourage you to take a look at our current project list, so that you can be praying about the way that you and your family would like to put your gifts to work.



- **Blessing Box Team:** Meet needs by restocking local blessing boxes with food, clothing, and other supplies.
- **Card Ministry:** Bless members of our church and community by creating cards and writing notes of encouragement.
- **"Holy Comforter" Knitting Group:** Make lap blankets for local nursing homes and victims of flooding in Western NC.
- **Hygiene Packathon:** In partnership with "Feed the Hunger," a NC-based ministry that provides vital relief supplies around the world, we'll be packing almost 1500 hygiene bags that include a toothbrush, soap, washcloth, and band-aids.
- **The Lunch Bunch:** Prepare and deliver the lunch that will be served to all of our Servant Sunday participants
- **Christmas in October:** Fill 120 backpacks that will be distributed to students at Mount Park Elementary School as part of the Surry Baptist Association's Christmas Backpack ministry.
- **Calvary Welcome Wagon:** Prepare "outreach bags" that can be used by Calvary members to invite friends, clients, and folks who are new to our community to worship with us.
- **Yokefellow Cleaning Crew:** Help our local food bank meet the needs of hungry families by cleaning and arranging the food storage area.
- **Homebound Blessing Team:** Share brief visits with Calvary's homebound members while delivering lunch.
- **Team Snack Attack:** Prepare and deliver snack packages for hospital staff and waiting rooms.
- **Paul Bunyan Brigade:** Join us for a morning of wood-splitting, as we make sure that local friends in need have wood to heat their homes this winter.
- **Road Redemption Project:** Serve our neighbors and beautify our immediate community by collecting trash along South Franklin Road.
- **The School Squad:** Put your gardening, yardwork, and prayer skills to good use by doing a beautification project at and prayer walk at Tharrington Elementary.
- **"Senior Sunshine" Project:** Prepare fall door decorations for residents at Twelve Oaks.
- **"Beauty of Holiness" Bunch:** Bring joy to residents at Colonial Care by providing haircuts and nail painting.
- **The Construction Crew:** Bless a local family in need by providing a ramp or other home improvements.

Please begin praying about how you'd like to serve. And who knows? Maybe God will lay on your heart another project that would allow us to be a blessing to others. And if that happens, we encourage you to let us know. Please contact Lilnette Phillips (336/374-9584 or lilnette1@gmail.com) if you have ideas or questions – or if you'd like to sign up for a specific project.

New This Year!

In addition to all of our other projects, we're actually *expanding* Servant Sunday this year to make it a "Servant Week." While details are still being worked out, we plan to offer several projects that you can help us tackle between Monday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Oct. 25. These include:

- **"Victory in Veggies" Team:** Prepare and deliver delicious homemade vegetable soup to homebound members of the Calvary Family.
- **Hurricane Helpers:** Make a one-day, two-day, or three-day trip to Ashe County to help with ongoing Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. Volunteers of all skill levels (or no skill levels) will be needed. And for those who want more than one day of serving, lodging is available at a local campsite that provides beds along with toilet and shower facilities.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Believe it or not, a new school year is almost upon us! Surry County students will return to classes on August 13, with Mount Airy students hitting the books on August 18. And while a new term brings great opportunities to make new friends, learn new things, and pursue new goals; it also brings a host of pressures and challenges for students, their families, and the educators who serve them. And that's why we'll be having a "Blessing of the Backpacks" in our Uplift worship gathering on Sunday, August 10.

We invite kids to bring their backpacks to worship that morning, so that we can pray over them (the kids...not the backpacks); and so that we can ask the Lord to protect, bless and grow them into the strong, capable, and caring young Christ-followers that we know He wants them to be. Of course, we will also be praying for the families of our students and for the many educators in our congregation, asking the Lord to provide them with patience, wisdom, creativity, and strength as they seek to nurture young hearts and minds in today's challenging environment.

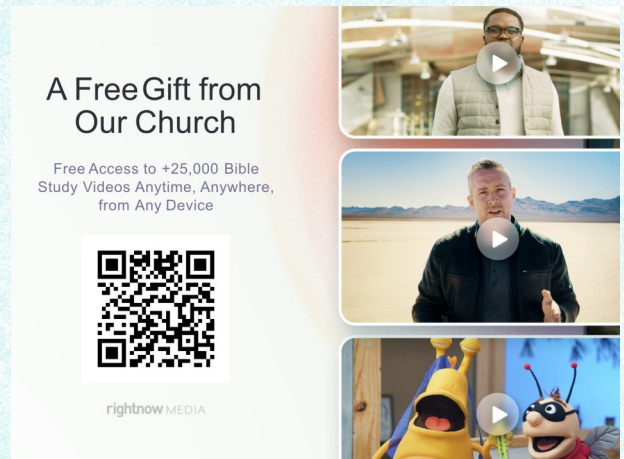
For many years now, investing in the lives of young people has been a core value here at Calvary. So we ask you to be often in prayer for our young people, their families, and local educators as the school year begins. And if you have a burden to support local students—or become aware of a need that we can help meet—we encourage you to reach out to the pastor or a member of our Mission Team.



Are You Doing RightNow?

The start of a new school year seems like a great time to remind you that Calvary offers almost endless opportunities for you to learn more about following Jesus through RightNow Media. If you're connected to the Calvary church family, you can take advantage of a free subscription to RightNow, which you can access on the web or through an app that can be downloaded to your phone or tablet. And once you've signed up...well...you can access thousands of Bible studies, devotionals, and training tools. You can even find wholesome entertainment for the kids, curriculum that's being used by some of our Sunday School classes, and "discipleship roadmaps" that provide a year's worth of resources to jumpstart your growth in Christ.

If you haven't yet started your subscription to RightNow Media—or if you haven't checked it out recently to see what's available—why not take a look today. Use the QR Code below to visit RightNow and sign-up. Or contact Pastor Alex (pastoralex4@gmail.com) to ask questions or to get your registration link.



Dear Calvary...

Teresa, Windham and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the expressions of love and support that you've provided in the wake of Teresa's recent knee-replacement surgery. There have been so many cards, phone calls, and get-well messages. And you've blessed us with a stack of gift cards to local restaurants, which has given us a wonderful break from the task of figuring out what to eat and how to prepare it. Serving the Lord with all of you has been (and continues to be) an inexpressible gift. Thank you for your kindness and support!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Alex

The Calvary church family wants to offer a special word of thanks to all those who have made memorial contributions in the past month:

- In memory of Anita Nichols: Claudia Bryant
- In memory of Virginia Howlett: Roger & Donna Keck
- In memory of Roger Marion: Dot Marion
- In memory of Suzanne Simmons: Jim & Lilnette Phillips
- In memory of Norma Hiatt: Jimmy & Sandra Byrd
- In memory of Gayle Thomas: Jim & Lilnette Phillips
- In memory of Jerry Nowlin: Jimmy & Sandra Byrd, Mike & Renee Francis, Vernell Goins, Linda Gordon, Roger & Donna Keck, Margaret Smith, JoAnn Surratt, and Johnny & Paulette Surratt

