



Calvary *Herald*

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THERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU...

Do you send “Christmas letters” to family and friends? Now, I’m not talking about Christmas cards or Christmas photos (both of which are nice) but **Christmas letters**—those highlight-filled updates that offer some idea of what you and your family have done in the past year. Do you send those to family and friends?

Well, if you do send or receive these holiday epistles, you know that even if they’re not the perfect way to stay in touch, they can help us to “keep alive” the bonds of love and friendship—even across the times and distances that sometimes separate us.

Now, imagine that this year, tucked in among all the other cards and photos you get from family and friends, is a Christmas letter from some distant relatives—second *or third cousins, many times removed*—who’ve just begun to experience the life-changing power of Jesus, and who want to share with you how their life has been changed by the greatest gift that God ever gave.

Well, if you stop and think about it, that’s kind of what the epistles of the New Testament are! And that’s why my Advent sermons will be about “*Christmas Letters from the Early Church*.” Each week, we’ll examine a bit of ancient (but personal) correspondence, in which the members of our extended faith family share the highlights of what has happened in their lives since they heard the “good news of great joy” that a Savior had come to set them free from sin and death. And hopefully, in the process, we’ll be reminded how the Savior wants to change our lives, too.

I hope you can join us for all the wonderful worship opportunities of this holy season. And I encourage you to invite others to share the joy of Christmas with us!

Pastor Alex

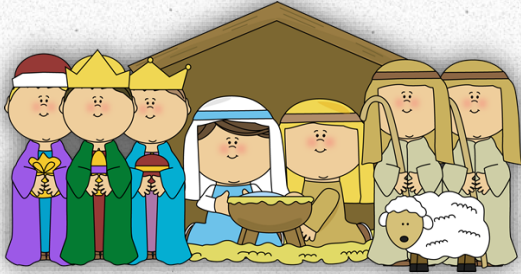
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Calvary Baptist would like to invite you and your family to keep Christ at the center of your Christmas celebration by joining us for a service of Christmas Eve worship on Tuesday, December 24, at 5:30 in the evening. We’ll sing some of your favorite carols, share the story of Christmas, and consider what Christmas means with a dramatic reading titled, “The Ragman.” Our time of worship will conclude with candlelight and Silent Night. We hope you can join us.



Kid's Christmas Program

Get ready for the cutest event of the holiday! Calvary's children will present their Christmas program on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 in the evening. The play will feature the traditional nativity scene complete with baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, shepherds, wisemen, angels and cute little stable animals. Following the play, a reception with light refreshments will be held in the Fellowship Hall.



Christmas Cantata

We encourage you to join us at 6 o'clock in the evening on Sunday, December 15, when Calvary's praise band, choir, and drama team present "There's No Room Here"—a worship experience for the Christmas season. By hearing, singing, and "enacting" the story of Jesus' birth, you'll be invited to ask whether there's room in your heart for the Savior to be born anew. We would love to have a full house; so please invite your friends!

There's No Room Here

Sunday, Dec. 15



Calvary One Sunday

The week between Christmas and New Year's Day is often an important "family time," as we wrap up the year behind us and look ahead to the year that's about to begin. And so, it seems appropriate that the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day will be a "family time" for our church, too! On Sunday, December 29, we'll celebrate our final "One Calvary Sunday" for 2024. We hope you'll plan to join us for a light breakfast at 8:30, Sunday School at 9:30, and one shared time of worship for the whole congregation at 10:30.

And Now, We Return You to Our Previously Scheduled Mission Trip...



Hey folks! It's finally here! After many months of delay caused by a summer hurricane, the youth group here at Calvary will be traveling to Jamaica from December 27th through January 3rd to serve alongside Pastor Wayne Smith and his congregation at Greenwood Baptist Church.

We are very excited that we're able to take this trip, and we are so thankful for the financial support of this church family to help make it possible for our kids!

As we approach the trip, please pray for our team's safety, for Pastor Wayne and his church family, for the "Praying Pelican" staff who will supervise our ministry, and for the hearts of our team members to be open to what God has in store for us.

To aid you in your prayers, here are the names of our team members. And again, thank you all for your support! We can't wait to tell you all about it!

STUDENT MISSIONARIES

Lucy Bennett, Avarie Brintle, Ella Brintle, Reese Cox, Talon Dearborn, Jackson Gardner, Bristol Golding, Isaac Hawks, Harper Leathers, Gabe Mauck, Carter McPeak, Bradlee Morgan, Emma Kate Norman, Natalie Puckett, Jayden Robertson, Mason Varney

ADULT LEADERS

Alex Bracey, Stephanie Hawks, Emily Mauck, Tyler Morgan, Jim Phillips, Lilnette Phillips, Trace Simmons, Bryson Varney

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Pastor Martin,

I would like to begin by saying that the thought and planning that went behind these Blessing Bags is greatly appreciated. Often times, Nursing Home employees are overlooked in the healthcare field. But the work that goes into caring for individuals takes patience, empathy, sympathy and compassion.

I am truly blessed to have worked at Central Continuing Care for 20 years of my life along with many of my other coworkers. We feel that the job that we do here is so much more than just a job; it's a calling. The days and hours that we spend away from our own families goes into spending time with these wonderful residents that are experiencing hardships and health challenges. Please keep all the staff and residents in your thoughts and prayers.

Again, the kind thoughts and planning that went into these bags means more to us than I can express into words. As I passed these treats out to my work family, they expressed so much thanks. The smiles that were on their faces were a blessing and just know that you have all made a difference on this day and planted many seeds in the name of Jesus. Thank you all and may God bless you now and always.

*Krystal Simmons, RN
Staff Development Coordinator
Central Continuing Care*

Dear Calvary Members,

Thank you for the wonderful treat bags that you gave to the residents and staff of Colonial Care Nursing Home at Halloween. No words can express how much we appreciate all that you do for us!

*In Christian Love,
Staff and Residents of Colonial Care*

Dear Calvary,

Thank you for the wonderful treat bag! It really brightened my day!

*Sandra Crum,
Central Continuing Care*



Christmas Missions Offering

Each Christmas, we celebrate the gift of a Savior. But this gift was meant for the world and not for us alone. And that's why we encourage you to participate in this year's Christmas Offering for World Missions! Our goal for this year is \$6000, and your contribution will allow us to support our mission partners in sharing the gospel around the globe.

When you give, you can designate your gift to support Andy & Cari Robertson (our missionaries in Chad), the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the SBC, or the Global Missions Offering of the CBF. Or you can simply give to the offering, and we will split your contribution evenly among all three causes.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE COMING SOON

**Sunday, January 5, 2025
11 AM to 3:30 pm**

Calvary Baptist Fellowship Hall

**Volunteers Needed to
Register Donors and to
Serve Refreshments**

**To Volunteer or to
Schedule a Donation
Contact Mary Jane Shelton**

336/401-58439

