



## Let's Make Mount Airy Our Valentine!

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love. And who should be more eager to share love than followers of Christ, who've been saved by the Love of the Father? That's why we're inviting you to help us share God's love with others by participating in a simple but meaningful Valentine's outreach effort.

On Sunday, February 13, our mission team will have baskets of cookies all packed and ready to bless the employees of local businesses. Then, as you leave church that morning, we're inviting you to pick up a basket or two so that you can deliver the cookies to their intended recipients. You don't have to worry about where to take them; we'll have a list of businesses to visit. [Of course, if you'd like to suggest a business or two, please contact Jan Varney no later than Feb. 6.] And you don't need to stress about what to say! Just drop the cookies off with a manager and let them know that we wanted to share the love of Jesus in a practical way. It might seem like a small thing to do. But as our pastor occasionally reminds us: "Small things done with great love will change the world." So please mark your calendar and plan to join us as we ask Mount Airy to be our Valentine.

## Upcoming Business Meetings

There will be a church business meeting in the chapel at 5 o'clock on Sunday, February 20. One of the key items on the agenda will be a proposal from the constitution and bylaws committee to make some revisions to our foundational document. This proposal will be presented and discussed in February, and it will be voted on at a second business meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 20. If you have any other items of business that need to come before the church, please contact our moderator, David Stone.

## Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 6, Calvary will host the members and families of our Cub Pack and Scout Troop for this year's Scout Sunday. We're grateful to partner with our Scouts and their leaders to provide personal growth and character formation for young men. And we're grateful for their willingness to be with us in worship, which offers a reminder that spiritual formation is an important part of Scouting, too! This year, Pastor Alex will share a message rooted in Luke 17:7-10 that applies to Scouts and non-Scouts alike: "To Do My Duty...and then Some!" We hope you can join us and can help us extend a warm welcome to these special guests.



# Rest ~ Reflect ~ Renew: A Primer

If you read January's newsletter, you learned that preparations are underway for Calvary's pastoral and congregational sabbatical experience—originally scheduled for the summer of 2020—to take place in the summer of 2022. Because of the delay, however, you might not remember what the sabbatical is all about! So in the interest of jogging your memory, here's a quick overview.

“Rest – Reflect – Renew” is a 3-month spiritual journey designed to refresh both our pastor and our congregation. Thanks to a generous grant, both Pastor Alex and the Calvary church family will get a chance to share unique opportunities related to sabbath, prayer, storytelling, and worship. These will allow us to deepen our connections with God and one another, to examine our mutual and individual journeys of faith, and to revitalize our walk with Christ.

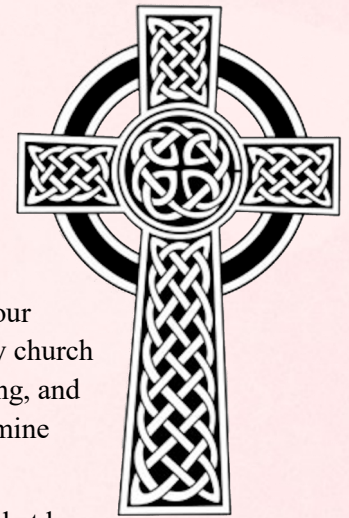
For Pastor Alex, the sabbatical will offer a break from the routines of ministry so that he can devote extended time to prayer, reading, and recreation. At the heart of his experience will be a “cycling pilgrimage,” in which he will ride his bike through parts of Ireland, Scotland, and northern England as he visits sites that have played a key role in the development and spread of the Celtic Christian tradition.

For the congregation, the sabbatical will provide an opportunity to hear from special speakers who will teach us about the biblical concept of sabbath; about the importance of storytelling for seeing how God is at work among us; and about the ways that ongoing renewal can help us to glorify the Lord through worship, discipleship, fellowship, and service. The church family's experience will also be held together by a sabbatical devotional guide written by church members; by the presence and preaching of a veteran pastor, who will walk with our church through the sabbatical experience; and by key ministry and fellowship activities that will be scheduled throughout the summer.

For some, of course, reading this brief overview probably creates some questions. And that's why we'll be sponsoring some “Q&A” sessions in March at which everyone can learn more and put their minds at ease. For now, however, we'd like to ask you to do these three things:

- First, please trust that the same God who gave us the opportunity for this sabbatical will walk with us through this sabbatical, using it to lead both our pastor and our church family into growth and service.
- Next, please talk to Pastor Alex if you have any questions or concerns. He's eager to speak with everyone about the sabbatical experience, and he can help you understand all the steps that are being taken to ensure that ministry continues smoothly while he's away.
- Finally, please pray that the Lord will prepare all of us for a life-changing experience of rest, reflection, and renewal. So many good things can come out of this spiritual journey that we're about to share. But as with so many other facets of the Christian life, what we get out of it will depend a lot on what we put into it.

Let's put our heart, soul, mind, and strength into this gift that God has given us! And let's anticipate that the One who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it.



## Coming This Month: The Elephants in the Church



Perhaps you've heard the expression, “the elephant in the room.” According to Wikipedia, it's a phrase that refers to “an important issue that everyone knows about, but no one mentions because it makes them uncomfortable.” Of course, while there are plenty of these “elephants” roaming our homes, workplaces, and neighborhood gatherings; it seems safe to say that we've got some “elephants” in our churches, too. And that's why Pastor Alex will be sharing a short series of messages this month called, “The Elephant in the Church.” Each week, we'll take a look at one of these troublesome issues, and we'll discover that our “elephants” become a whole lot smaller and easier to manage when we can face them together. We hope you can join us for worship, and don't forget to invite a friend!

# Youth Mission Fundraiser

This summer's Youth Mission Trip will take Calvary's young people and their leaders to Pittsburgh. And they need your help to get there...literally!

Because our church bus is too large to navigate the streets of downtown Pittsburgh safely, the team will need to rent 2 15-passenger vans for their journey. So to help cover this expense, you're invited to participate in a "Bulletin Board Fundraiser." Just stop by the big blue bulletin board in the middle of the Children's Sunday School hallway. There, you'll find 100 offering envelopes, each one with a dollar amount ranging from \$1 to \$100. Select an envelope based on the amount you'd like to give. Place the designated amount inside and write your name on the front. Then, drop your envelope in the offering or hand it off to Alex Bracey. It's that easy!

Of course, even more than your financial support, we seek your prayer support for our young people as they prepare for this week of ministry. Please begin now to pray for our team and their leaders, asking the Lord to keep them safe, to use them for His purposes, and to help them grow in Christ along the way. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our youth ministry!



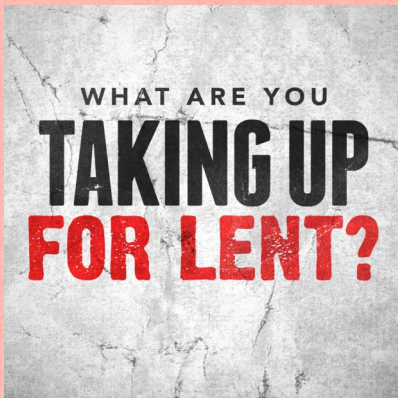
## Celebrating Our Staff

Don't forget about the birthdays and work anniversaries that members of Calvary's staff are celebrating this month:

- The birthday of Mary Gammons, one of our Nursery Caregivers, is February 16.
- The birthday of Carolyn Green, our organist, is February 27.
- Carlos Delfin, Custodian will celebrate his 20th Anniversary as an employee of Calvary Baptist Church on February 10th! Thank you for your years of service to our church family. We appreciate you Carlos!

## Looking Ahead to Lent

Lent is the period of 40 days during which followers of Jesus prepare their hearts to celebrate his death and resurrection, which form the heart of the Christian message. This year, Lent begins on March 2 with the observance of Ash Wednesday, a day that kicks off the season of Lent with an emphasis on prayer and repentance. Once again this year, Calvary will mark Ash Wednesday with a time of worship that features interactive prayer stations and the imposition of ashes for those who desire it. The service will begin in the sanctuary at 6 o'clock and will replace the first part of our regular Mid-Week ministry schedule.



As we move through the season of Lent, Pastor Alex will share a series of messages that ask the question: "What Are You 'Taking Up' for Lent?" People often talk about "giving up" things for Lent—things like chocolate or television or fast food. And while there can be value in making such sacrifices, it might be just as important to consider some qualities that the Lord would like us to add to our lives—things like holiness and faith and humility. So each week, we'll use a passage from one of Paul's letters to remind us of the virtues that we can "take up" as we conform our lives to the life of our Savior.

## Dear Calvary...

Calvary Baptist Family,  
Thank you for your continued support of this local ministry!

God Bless,  
Eric Leathers—Young Life

Hi, my name is Eli and I am a senior at Mount Airy High School. I intern with Young Life because I love the message it spreads to people my age! Thank you for making Young Life possible for me and my friends.

Eli

Dear Calvary Baptist Friends, Thank you for your continued love and, prayers, and support. You help provide hope and healing and we appreciate you!

Blessings,  
Karen—Baptist Children's Homes

Dear Calvary Baptist, Thank you so much for the donation of socks to our patients. What a blessing! Our patients were so excited to be able to choose from the assortment of warm, cozy socks. The timing was perfect. God is so good to us! We are blessed to have kind neighbors.

Lorrie Sawyers—Surry Medical Ministries

Calvary Family, Thank you all for your kind words, thoughts and mostly prayers thru this difficult time, you all will never know how much my family and I appreciate each and everyone of you!

God's Blessings to all of you!  
Mary Gammons

To the Calvary Family, Each one has made me feel so welcome and shown my daughter and me so much love. Without all of you and your love my Peggy would not have had much of a Christmas this year. Saying Thank You does not seem like enough but it is all I can offer. Thank you one and all church family. All of our love,

Brenda and Peggy

Thank you to all that sent me cards, Get Well and Christmas cards. I enjoyed them. I miss all of you and love you.

Myrtle Wagoner

## Memorials and Honorariums

### In Honor of Brenda Barfield

Lillie Mae Haynes

### In Honor of Wilma Roberson

Jimmy and Sandra Byrd  
Ralph and Cindy Davis  
Roger and Donna Keck

### In Memory of Glen and Emma Davenport

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Blanche Davis

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Faye Jarrell

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Fred and Cena Jarrell

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Kester Jarrell

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Mildred Jarrell

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Lum and Lelia Snow

Norris Jarrell

### In Memory of Dorothy Reavis

Betty Wagoner

