



MARCH 2025 ~ VOLUME 56 ~ ISSUE 3

Preparing Our Hearts for Easter

On Wednesday, March 5, Calvary invites you to begin preparing your heart for Easter by participating in “The Seven Symbols of Ash”—a self-guided, interactive worship experience. By making your way through seven stations—each of which provides an action, a scripture, and a suggestion for prayer—you’ll have an opportunity to consider how “dust and ashes” can draw us more deeply into the life of discipleship.

These stations will be available in the sanctuary between 4 pm and 7 pm on March 5, allowing each worshipper to invest as little time—or as much time—as desired in reflection and prayer. We do recommend, however, that you allow at least 20 minutes to complete the stations. Pastor Alex will be available to greet you, to answer any questions, and to get you started. Once you have completed the stations, be sure to pick up a devotional guide for the Lenten season, so that you can

continue your Easter preparation by reflecting daily on the life and ministry of Jesus.



March Mission Project

Each month, Calvary seeks to offer our church family an opportunity to participate in the mission of Jesus by blessing others. In March, that effort revolves around providing bags of essential toiletry items for students in need in local schools. If you, your family, or your Sunday School class would like to prepare a bag or bags, please contact Jan Varney to receive a bag, along with a list of the items to include in it. Based on our “shopping reconnaissance,” each bag will cost approximately \$15 to \$18. Completed bags should be returned to the church no later than March 23.

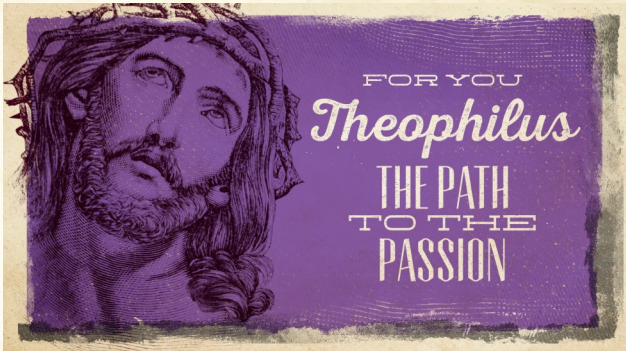
One Calvary Sunday

Our next “One Calvary Sunday” will take place on Sunday, March 30! As part of our ongoing effort to build stronger bonds within our church family, we invite you to put aside your normal Sunday morning schedule so that you can join us for a fellowship breakfast at 8 o’clock, Bible study for the whole family at 9 o’clock, and one combined gathering for worship at 10 o’clock. As part of our unity emphasis, we’ll be receiving an offering for our Benevolence Fund, which allows us to respond to emergency needs within our church family. Please make every effort to be with us as we celebrate the God and Father who gives us one faith, one hope...and one Calvary!



Upcoming Sermons

Since the beginning of the year, Pastor Alex has been inviting our church family to journey with Jesus through a series of sermons titled, *“For You, Theophilus: Learning the Lord in the Gospel of Luke.”* However, as we enter the season of Lent, the nature of that journey changes. In Luke 9:51, scripture tells us, “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” As a result, everything that follows is focused on the cross and is designed to help us understand what it means to be disciples of a suffering Savior. Therefore, while our “For You, Theophilus” series will continue, it will do so with a new emphasis: “The Path to the Passion.” We hope you can continue to journey with us as we seek to be “Theophiloi”—“friends and lovers of God.”



Coming to Wednesday Nights

How is your prayer life? Do you find yourself frequently burdened to pray for others? Do you treasure the prayers that others pray for you? Would you like to grow in your prayer walk?

Come learn more about what the Bible says about prayer, and then put it into action! Each Wednesday evening, beginning March 19, we will meet to dig into God's Word and better understand the power of prayer. We will also have a focused prayer time, when praises and needs are lifted to God for the ultimate purpose of His glory. Bring your prayer requests and an open heart, and prepare to experience what God will do through the prayers of His people. Led by Dave McPeak.



New Growth This Spring with RightNow Media

Did you know that you have access to an enormous library of Christian growth resources, just because you are connected to the Calvary family? That's right! Everyone who participates in the ministries of our congregation can get free access to **RightNow Media**, an online collection of Bible studies and training resources that even includes wholesome entertainment for the kids. If you're not utilizing this resource and would like to know more, please contact Pastor Alex or Becky Critz. And just look at some of the studies you could be enjoying right now:

The Lent Experience (Eric Farris)

7 sessions; avg. 5 minutes each.

What happens when you take 2,000 years of a Christian tradition, capture the heart of it, and reimagine it? Whether you're a veteran of observing Lent or a rookie who is jumping in for the first time, you can experience Lent in a way that just might surprise you. Accompanying journal available for purchase.

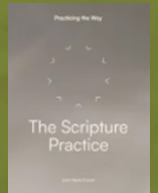
Designed to begin on Ash Wednesday (March 5). Order your book quickly!



The Scripture Practice (John Mark Comer)

4 sessions; avg. 31 minutes each

The library we call “the Bible” can connect us to God and change who we are. Rediscover how to engage with Scripture as an apprentice to Jesus. Free study guide and digital companion guides available.

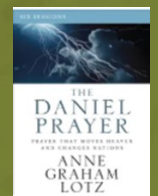


Similar series are available on fasting, solitude, prayer, generosity, and Sabbath.

The Daniel Prayer by Anne Graham Lotz

6 sessions; avg. 18 minutes each

In this study, bestselling author Anne Graham Lotz looks at the life of Daniel and unpacks the prayer he prayed in Daniel 9. Unlike the everyday now-I-lay-me-down-to-sleep kind of prayer, this is a prayer birthed under pressure. A prayer in which the pray-ers return to the cross and repent of sin. A prayer that changes hearts and nations—even in our world today. Join Anne in a thrilling discovery of prayer that really works. Book available for purchase.



Support the Surry Baptist Men and their ongoing Handyman Ministry!

Saturday, March 22, 2025
Calvary Fellowship Hall
7 am to 10 am

Donations Accepted

Dear Calvary...

I want to thank you for sending your donation of money, gift cards, clothing, knitted items, and other things for folks who have been affected by the Helene Crisis. Over 400 houses in our community were uninhabitable after the flooding—the most water in 10 years in Ashe County. Things are getting better each day because of folks like you.

Please continue to pray for folks to be saved, for Christians to be strengthened, and for hurting hearts to be restored by God's Holy Spirit. Check us out on the web at 222.ashebaptist.org to keep up with what is happening in Ashe County, the coolest corner of NC.

*Ashe Strong,
Rev. David Blackburn, Director of Missions*

Thank you, Calvary, for being such great supporters of Surry Medical Ministries throughout the years! We are so very grateful for your support. You are a trusted and valued partner.

Lorrie Sawyers, Secretary

For every act of love and kindness shown to our mother, Juanita Clifton, we thank you. Any gesture, be it great or small—as well as your love and concern for both Mama and our family—brought great comfort to her as she transitioned to her heavenly home. Our precious Mama loved her church and church family dearly. The meal provided for our family after the service was such a sweet time of nourishment and reminiscing...we thank you all for everything!

*Love in Christ,
Kim Cheek and Lisa Jackson*

It is obvious that Calvary Baptist Church is committed to helping others. Yokefellow Ministry is blessed with you as a partner. The 654 cans of soup you donate will help us feed those in need.

*Thank you very much,
Dixie Ratcliff, Director*

My employees really enjoyed the cookies you sent us! Any time we can help you, please let me know.

John Mitchell, Libby Hill Seafood

Thanks to Those Who Gave

The Calvary Church family wishes to express deep appreciation to all those who gave special gifts this month in memory and in honor of those they love:

- **In Memory of Brenda Arnder:** Roger & Carol Jarrell, Jim & Lilnette Phillips
- **In Memory of Juanita Clifton:** Dot Marion, Pat Smith, Brenda Barfield, JoLynn Johnson, Roger & Carol Jarrell, Claudia Bryant, Faye Haas
- **In Honor of Dot Marion's 90th Birthday:** Don and Debra Edmonds



From Pastor Alex: *Saint Patrick's Day and Christian Hope*

When I went to Ireland during my sabbatical in 2022, I visited Downpatrick, the site at which Saint Patrick established his very first church way back in 432 AD. Now, if you know anything about the *real* Saint Patrick (and not the "cheery leprechaun" who sells us green knick-knacks in March), you might understand what a miracle the existence of this church is.

The real Saint Patrick was a young Roman who lived in Britain until Celtic marauders from Ireland destroyed his village and took him captive. Fortunately for him (and for us), God arranged for his escape, and he was able to return home. Convinced that God saved him for a reason, Patrick studied to become a priest. But when he had a dream in which an angel brought letters from the people of Ireland that read, "*We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us*"—Patrick returned to the land of his captivity and began to travel across the island, preaching the gospel and aiding those in need. During his 40 years of ministry, Patrick and the students he trained were able to bring the vast majority of the pagan people of Ireland to faith in Christ. And after Patrick's death, Ireland became a vibrant center of Christian learning, from which many missionaries were sent out to "re-Christianize" Europe when it reverted to paganism after the fall of the Roman Empire.

So this Saint Patrick's Day, let's remember that even one unlikely child of God can change a nation, if he or she answers God's call and trusts in God's provision. And if you wear green to celebrate that, you'll honor Saint Patrick well.

